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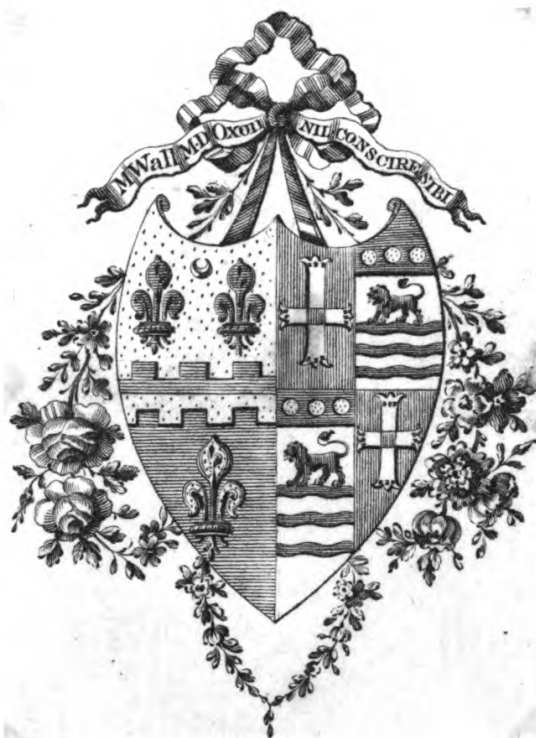
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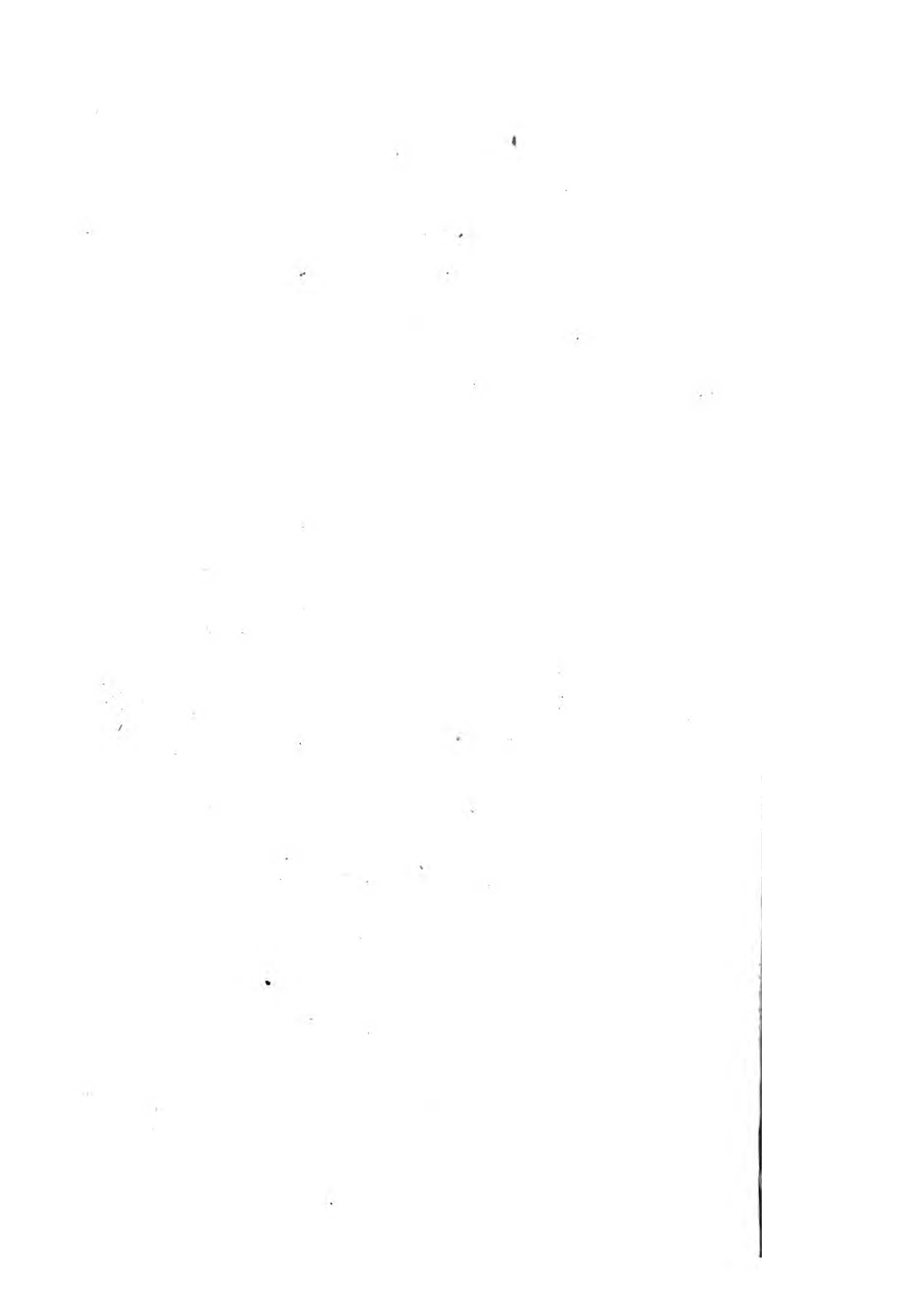


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THE
L O N D O N
MEDICAL JOURNAL.

VOLUME THE THIRD.



L O N D O N :

Printed for the EDITOR by W. RICHARDSON,

AND SOLD

By JOSEPH JOHNSON, N^o 72, St. Paul's Church Yard.

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LONDON MEDICAL JOURNAL,

F O R

JAN. FEB. AND MARCH, 1782.



S E C T I O N I.

B O O K S.



I. *Chirurgiske Händelser, &c. i. e. Chirurgical Cases.* By Olaus Acrel, M. D. General Director of all the Hospitals in Sweden; Professor of Surgery, and principal Surgeon to the Royal Infirmary at Stockholm. The second Edition. 8vo, Stockholm, 1778. 2 Vols. with Copperplates.

THE author of the work before us, has long been deservedly esteemed as a useful and ingenious writer. The first edition of it was printed in 1759, in one volume 8vo. In the present edition it is considerably enlarged, and

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its

its value increased by many additional observations. The whole may be considered as the result of long and extensive experience; the author having officiated as Surgeon to the Infirmary at Stockholm, from the time of its institution in 1752. As a reward for his services, the King of Sweden has lately decorated him with the order of Wasa.

The cases described in these volumes are arranged under different heads. The author begins with such as relate to the head and throat, and proceeds from those to the diseases of the trunk and extremities. From each of these divisions we shall select such observations as appear to be the most interesting.

Wounds of the Head.—The author relates the case of a soldier who received a violent contusion on his head, which deprived him of his senses. At the end of eight days, however, he was sufficiently recovered to be able to walk several miles, when he suddenly fell down senseless. In this state he was brought to the hospital. No mention was made of the previous blow on the head, and as there was no wound of the integuments, recourse was had to V.S. blisters, and internal remedies. After he had been a week in
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the hospital without any amendment, his head was observed to be enlarged, and upon examination a fluctuation was felt under the integuments. An incision was now made through the skin in the direction of the sagittal suture, and by this means a considerable quantity of a yellowish watery fluid was discharged. Upon introducing a finger into the wound, the suture was found to be considerably dilated. The patient after this began to recover his speech, and gave an account of the blow he had received. At the end of another week a fluctuation was felt at the occiput. A fresh incision was made in this part, and a great quantity of the same kind of fluid discharged as before. The lambdoidal suture was likewise found to be dilated, and five of the *ossa triquetra* were so loose, that they were taken out without the least resistance. After a few days a similar discharge took place from the right coronal suture, which was also much dilated. In about five weeks, the discharge from the incisions had entirely ceased, and the patient began to recover his strength so as to be able to walk. But at this period of the cure, as he was rising in the night to go to the privy, he accidentally fell with his head against the wall, and

died instantly. His head was examined after death, but the brain afforded no marks of supuration, or of extravasated blood, and all the futures, except the coronal, were filled with granulations.

A cancerous fungus of the brain. — About a year and a half before the appearance of this tumour, the patient had received a violent blow on the head, and from that period had been hardly ever free from pain. The swelling at length acquired the size of a middling apple. As it evidently rose and subsided in a manner corresponding with the motion of the cerebrum, it was on this account supposed to be connected with it. It gradually became softer and softer, and at length was opened. A considerable quantity of a thin bloody fluid was discharged by this means, but there was no appearance of pus. Soon after the operation the patient fell asleep, and remained senseless and motionless till his death, which happened three days afterwards.

This case is followed by an account of two instances of a peculiar tumour on the head. In both patients this swelling was brought on by their carrying a great weight on the head. It extended over the whole cranium to the *os jugale*.

gale. It was neither red nor painful, but very elastic, so as not to retain the impression of the finger. In each of these cases a cure was easily obtained by evacuations and topical applications, as the cranium did not seem to be affected.

A double hare-lip.—In this case the author trusting to the great dilatability of the *labia*, cut out the portion of hard flesh that separated the two hare-lips, and which was $\frac{4}{10}$ ths of an inch in breadth. The event was perfectly successful.

Cancer of the lower lip.—In cases of this sort, if any part of the cheek is indurated or corroded, or the neighbouring glands are enlarged, he considers the disease as incurable. Several cases are related, in which the Belladonna, *Phytolacca*, and other medicines were of no use. In several of these cases, the operation proved fruitless: for although the wound healed kindly, either the submaxillary glands, or the glands of the neck swelled, and proved fatal to the patient. In some instances, however, he has seen the operation prove successful.

Of the Trichiasis.—The author observes that this is generally the effect of chronic ophthalmia. In most of the cases that have occurred to him, the patient was deprived of sight; but in all of them

them a cure was effected by cutting out a portion of the outer membrane of the eye-lids, which was always præternaturally elongated and relaxed.

A large tumour extracted from the orbit of the eye.—This tumour was of the size of an hen's egg, and arose from the bottom of the orbit, so that the bulb of the eye was nearly pressed out of that cavity. After making an incision thro' the integuments above the orbit, the tumor was extracted, and the optic nerve was clearly seen after the operation. By degrees, however, the eye resumed its natural form, and the patient recovered his sight.

A cancerous eye successfully extirpated.—The subject of this case was a boy, and the diseased eye had acquired an enormous bulk. Our author first made an incision, of an inch in length, through the canthus externus, and after dissecting the bulb from the eye-lids, passed a thread through it, by which means he was enabled to elevate and extract it with ease. The orbit by degrees was filled with a fleshy substance, and five weeks after the operation, the patient was perfectly recovered. The extirpated eye afforded no marks of organisation.

Of

Of the cataract.—In cases of this sort, Dr. Acrel prefers depression to extraction, and the method recommended by St. Ives to that practised by Ferrein. He has examined, after death, the eyes of several persons who in their lifetime had undergone the operation of depression, but in none of them could he discover the least vestige of cataract in the chamber of the eye. He therefore is of opinion that the depressed lens is gradually dissolved, and of course disappears. He observes that of thirty cases of cataract, there were only three in which the anterior capsula of the lens was transparent; in all the others it was opaque. He has hardly ever seen any bad consequences from an effusion of blood into the eye during the operation, as it commonly soon disappeared. Repeated observations have convinced him, that in cases where the cataract has been preceded by long continued pains or defluxions, or rheumatic headache, and the face is pustulous, or of a copper-colour, the operation is generally followed by bad symptoms, and the patient seldom recovers his sight.

Polypus of the nose.—Dr. Acrel observes, that the hard fleshy polypus has very often a bony basis,

basis, and is not radically cured 'till an exfoliation has taken place. In order to promote this, he applies butter of antimony, through a tube, to the part, and by this means has always destroyed the root of the polypus, and prevented it from growing again.

Extirpation of the parotids.—Two cases are related in which this operation was performed by first making a crucial incision through the integuments, and then passing a needle and thread through the tumour, by means of which it was drawn upwards, and dissected out with greater ease. In one of the patients, the extirpation was effected without difficulty; in the other, it was attended with considerable trouble and danger, owing to the wounding of the external carotid. In less than two minutes the patient lost upwards of two pounds of blood. The artery was too deeply seated to allow of a ligature being passed round it, and our author was afraid to apply styptics on account of the numerous branches of nerves that occur in that part. There was no time, however to be lost, and recourse was had to agaric, pieces of which were applied so as to compress the mouth of the artery, and this had the desired effect.

A carious fistula in the meatus auditorius.—The disease here spoken of came on after an acute rheumatism, succeeded by vertigo, watchfulness, violent head-ach, and the discharge of a yellowish, watery fluid of a sour smell, from the ear. The meatus auditorius was found filled with a soft spongy flesh, and upon introducing a probe into it, our author felt a piece of loose rough bone. This induced him to dilate the meatus, and extract the diseased bone, which was accordingly done, and the patient afterwards recovered.

Worms in the meatus auditorius.—The subject of this case was a female who had for some time laboured under a difficulty of hearing. On a sudden without any apparent cause, she was seized with convulsions, and soon afterwards complained of acute pain in her ears, upon which the convulsions returned with increased violence. A piece of lint moistened with oil and laudanum, was now put into the ear, and upon taking it out, several very small round worms were found upon the lint, whereupon all the symptoms ceased. The author informs us that he has since found an excellent remedy against worms of this kind in a decoction of
Ledum

Ledum palustre injected into the ear, having experienced its efficacy in several cases.

A piece of a tobacco-pipe discharged from an abscess.—The patient whose case is here related, fell asleep with a pipe in his mouth, and broke off a portion of it, which he swallowed. From that time he was ill, and soon began to have symptoms of hectic fever. Several months after an abscess formed in his back under the lower angle of the scapula, and on opening it, it was found to contain the piece of the tobacco-pipe, which was easily extracted, and the patient cured.

Case of a gun-shot wound in the throat.—In this patient the ball passed between the trachea and the left internal carotid, without seeming to have injured either of those parts. Towards the end of the cure a true aneurism of the carotid, of the size of a walnut, made its appearance, but was perfectly removed by compression in less than six months.

Encysted tumours.—In several cases of this sort, the tumours were opened by incision, and the sac destroyed by suppuration. When the tumours have been large, Dr. Acrel has observed, that small sinuses and sacs have sometimes remained

mained between the muscles, and afterwards filled again. When this happened a second opening generally proved effectual. If the discharge from the wound is ichorous, he recommends the application of a solution of sulphur, as the best means of procuring a laudable pus. He has seen hard encysted swellings brought to suppuration by the external use of Pott's *Arthritic Spirit*, which is prepared by distilling two ounces of common salt with one ounce of oil of vitriol and two of oil of turpentine. The distilled spirit is to be carefully separated from the water, and preserved for use.

Cases of vomica.—Our author has seen repeated instances of abscesses of this sort after pleurisy. The patients had commonly purulent expectoration, and external fistulous ulcers. He always thought it adviseable to begin by dilating the external opening. In the greater number of cases, he observed that the pus was not in the cavity of the thorax, but in a peculiar sac between the pleura and intercostal muscles; sometimes, however, it was evidently in the cavity; and the cases in which this happened were generally found to be the most fatal.

Abscess

Abscess of the liver.—The suppuration here spoken of took place after a violent hepatitis. The first appearance of it was a large swelling in the right hypochondriac region, extending to the breast: the patient had a weak, quick pulse, his countenance was of a pale yellow, and he was much emaciated. Poultices were applied to the tumour, and in six days the fluctuation was sufficiently evident to allow of its being opened. A large quantity of yellowish green pus was discharged, and a cure was obtained in about seven weeks.

Of hernias.—Under this head we meet with several interesting observations.—In a case of inveterate incarcerated hernia, our author dilated the abdominal ring before he opened the hernial sac, and the intestine immediately went up of itself. He did this, he tells us, to prevent the air from coming into immediate contact with the contents of the sac. After the reduction of the hernia, the sac was opened, and the patient recovered, and remained well for nine months; at the end of which time his irregular mode of living brought on a colic, of which he died. Upon dissection those parts of the omentum and intestine which had formerly descended

descended through the ring, were found connected into one lump; the omentum was preternaturally hard, and the membranes of the intestine much thickened. The diameter of the sac at the ring was so very small, that a goose quill could with difficulty be passed into it.

In several cases of hernia that were not incarcerated, the author has performed the operation with a view to prevent incarceration. Some of the patients were radically cured; in others, the hernia appeared again when they left off wearing a bandage; and in one case the operation proved fatal. In favour of this mode of practice, he observes that if the patient is of a good habit of body, and the intestines are speedily reduced, the operation is not a dangerous one; and that in old hernias it often happens that the patient, even with the assistance of a truss, is unable to prevent the hernia from coming down, and of course is every moment in danger of its being incarcerated; whereas by means of the operation a contraction of the ring is produced, so that the hernia can always be kept up with the assistance of a bandage.

A case of incarcerated hernia is related in which our author performed the operation: a large portion of the omentum was found in the sac, to the basis of which it adhered. After dilating the abdominal ring, the omentum was easily reduced, and the patient recovered. In three months after the operation, the omentum could be felt above the ring, but after that period it entirely disappeared.

Separation of the ossa pubis in parturition.—This circumstance was not observed till five weeks after delivery, when upon opening an abscess that had formed in the pubis, it was discovered that the bones were separated, and eroded by the pus. After an exfoliation of the carious part, the bones united again, and the patient recovered.

Of fistulas of the urethra.—These complaints, the author remarks, are generally, though not always the effect of a venereal cause. In proof of this he relates the case of a soldier, who, after an acute fever, was afflicted with an inflammation of the testicles, scrotum, and perinæum. A suppuration took place in the latter, and the urine made its way through the wound. In this situation he remained for ten years, when

he

he was received into the hospital. At that time there were three fistulas *in perinæo*; one at the lower part of the scrotum, and two others near the anus. Almost the whole of his urine passed through these channels. Recourse was had to bougies, and mercurial ointment was applied to the perinæum. In a short time the bougies procured a free discharge of urine from the natural passage, but the perinæum remained hard as before. A probe was introduced into the urethra, and an incision made into it. Several other incisions were at the same time made into other parts of the perinæum. A good suppuration ensued; the hardness disappeared; and in about five weeks after this operation the whole was closed by a soft cicatrix. The patient was now discharged from the hospital, with a caution to continue the use of the bougies. This advice however he neglected to follow, and at the end of two years, returned to the hospital with a fresh induration of the perinæum, and voiding his urine with difficulty, and only by drops. The hardness seeming to be occasioned by a fistula near the neck of the bladder, an incision was made into the urethra, and the indurated part dissected out: after which bougies were used,

used, as after the former operation, and the patient soon recovered.—The author ascribes the origin of this case to a metastasis after fever; but we are inclined to think that he was deceived by the patient, who constantly denied that he had any venereal taint.

Hydrocele.—Two instances are mentioned in which the operation by incision proved fatal. The author attributes his ill success to the irregularity of the patients. He advises the operation of tapping, in cases of this sort, to be performed in a dark room, with a lighted candle placed at the opposite side of the scrotum. By this means, we are told, it is easy to distinguish, and of course to avoid wounding the large blood-vessels of the tunica vaginalis or the testicles.

In several cases of hydrocele he has adopted Mr. Ellis's method of cure by caustic, and has constantly found it successful.

Calculous complaints.—He has given the *uvæ ursi* in large doses, and to a great number of patients, but without any good effect. Of twenty-two patients whom he cut for the stone, five died within a month after the operation; all the others recovered. In the dead body of a man
who

who during his life-time had been troubled with all the symptoms of stone, no calculus was found on dissection, but a sac was formed at the posterior part of the bladder, resembling the *intestinum cæcum*.

In the operation of lithotomy, in adults as well as young subjects of both sexes, he has with great success employed Frere Cosme's *lithotome cachée*, and likewise M. Le Dran's *Couteau en rondache*.

Of Aneurisms.—Several cases are related, and one of them proves, that we cannot always depend on the ligature of the artery, as in the case alluded to, the thread was unexpectedly dissolved eight days after the operation, and the patient bled to death.

A particular kind of Paronychia.—Four cases of this sort have occurred to our author. The first of these patients began in the summer of 1746 to feel an acute pain in the little finger of his left hand. The pain extended from the root of the nail to the end of the finger, and at first lasted only a few minutes at a time, returning irregularly after intervals sometimes of several weeks. In about a year it became more violent, and continued for half and even for a

hour. In 1748 this complaint became still more troublesome, and the same sort of pain began to extend to the hand. During the years 1749 and 1750 the pain in the finger and hand increased, returning more frequently, and continuing longer. The external use of theriaca and brandy sometimes alleviated it, but did not prevent its return. In the winter of 1751 the patient began to feel a similar pain in his arm, and the finger was extremely painful when touched. The year following, the pain in the finger, hand and arm, became much worse, and he began at times to complain of a pungent pain in the side under the arm affected. Externally, nothing preternatural appeared. Electricity, blisters to the finger, a vapour bath, and other remedies were tried without effect. At last it was resolved to amputate the last phalanx of the little finger. The operation was accordingly performed, and the pain in the hand and arm gradually went off. The amputated bone was found changed into a real fatty substance.

In another patient, a middle aged woman, an almost constant pain was felt for nine years in the last phalanx of the right fore-finger. During the two last years, the extremity of the finger
thick-

thickened and became almost transparent. A cure was obtained, as in the former case, by amputation. The bones of the amputated phalanx were transparent, and of a gelatinous consistence.

A case in which the tendo Achillis was twice divided.—The subject of this case was a man who had the *tendo Achillis* cut through by a broad sword. The divided portions of the tendon were united by future, and after a time the patient seemed to be perfectly recovered. Several years after this, as he was running hastily up stairs, the tendon was again ruptured at the same place as before. The divided portions were now brought together by bandage. At the end of six weeks they seemed to be completely reunited, and in less than half a year the patient had recovered the perfect use of his foot. At the place where the re-union took place, a hard knot was to be felt of the size of a hazelnut.

Besides the cases and remarks of which we have already given an abstract, there are some others of which it will be sufficient to mention the title or general heads. Of this number are 1. the case of a woman who voided ascarides with her urine. 2. An instance of a double uterus illus-

trated by an engraving; 3. a case of a suppression of urine in which the bladder was ruptured by a violent effort to empty it. 4. An account of a wound of the femoral artery, in which a ligature was successfully passed round the vessel, about four inches below Pouparts ligament, and the use of the limb preserved; 5. a case of a fracture of the *os humeri*, in which a spurious articulation was formed merely by neglecting to suspend the fore-arm; the latter by its weight having drawn down the lower part of the *os humeri*, so as to prevent it from uniting with the upper portion. 6. An account of a considerable swelling of the hand, occasioned by the sting of a wasp, and cured by the external use of cold water.

II. *Kongl. Vetenskaps Academiens Handlingar för år 1777. i e. Memoirs of the Royal Academy of Sciences of Sweden for the Year 1777.* 8vo, Stockholm.

i. *Observations to shew that the loss of one or other of the external senses is compensated by a greater perfection of the rest.* By R. Martin, M.D.
 Prä-

Professor of Anatomy at Stockholm.—In the course of this paper we meet with several curious facts. The most remarkable of these is our author's account of a Swedish peasant thirty-four years old, who though blind from his infancy, has acquired considerable dexterity in several of the mechanic arts. He not only easily finds his way alone through the forests to cut wood, but makes a variety of utensils in iron, wood, &c. likewise shoes, needle-work, &c. He plays at cards, but he cannot distinguish colours. Another blind man, who is a native of Finland, is spoken of as excelling in all kinds of fine wood work. Our author makes mention of a woman whom he couched, and who for some time after the operation, whenever the bandage was removed, could not see, unless the window-curtains of the room were drawn. In a second paper on the same subject, Professor Martin speaks of a man who being deprived of the use of his hands, performs all the usual functions of the hands with his feet; and of another person now living at Stockholm, who having likewise lost the use of his hands, has accustomed himself to write with his mouth.

II. *An account of the state of population in four districts of Swedish Lapland.* By Mr. Hollsten.—

Each of these districts is said to contain upwards of 100 square miles, and yet the total number of inhabitants does not exceed 3370. They are sometimes visited by the small-pox, their dread of which is so great, that when a person is attacked with it, they generally leave him to himself. In another paper on the same subject, Mr. Hogstroins endeavours to prove that Lapland was formerly more populous than it is at present.

X
III. *Observations on the salt-petre manufactory at Helsingfors.* By Mr. Berger.—This paper contains several remarks on the production, constituent parts, and method of refining salt-petre. Our author observes that the acid of nitre is intimately combined with a diluted oily substance, which prevents it from shooting into chrystals. It is not the practice, it seems, in Sweden to procure salt-petre by the addition of an alkali; but the common salt and oily matter, as well as the calcareous earth united with the latter, are separated by repeated solutions and evaporations. We are told that at Helsingfors there is a spring which contains nitre in the proportion of half an ounce to eight pounds of the water;

IV. *An*

IV. *An account of a fatal case of hydrophobia.*
 By J. L. Odhelius, M.D.—We have here an instance of a disease which is said to be very uncommon in Sweden. The patient was a boy 12 years old, who had kissed a sick dog that afterwards proved to be mad. The patient had taken the animal to bed with him the night before it died. There was no appearance of any wound, and he denied that he had been bit. When the symptoms of hydrophobia came on, recourse was had to venæsection, but the blood that was taken away exhibited no inflammatory crust. Mercurial frictions, opium, and musk were given freely, but without effect, as the patient died. The dead body soon became putrid.

V. *The case of a young woman who was bit by a dog.* By Martin Stutzer.—This paper relates to the treatment of a maid servant who was bit in two places by a dog that was supposed to be mad. Cantharides in powder were applied, so as to produce a discharge from the wounds; salivation was excited by mercurial frictions, and the patient remained free from infection. Nothing, however, can be more suspicious than the prophylactics recommended against the hydrophobia, even in cases where the madness of the
 C 4 animal

animal is ascertained beyond a doubt. In the present instance, it does not clearly appear that the animal itself was mad, and of course the case can be of no use.

VI. *An account of the inefficacy of soap and lime water in a case of calculus.* By P. J. Bergius, M.D. Professor of Natural History and Chemistry at Stockholm. — The patient, whose case is here related, took every day, during fourteen years, half an ounce of soap, and three pints of lime water. After death a calculus was found in the bladder that weighed eleven ounces. The author observes that he has tried the same remedy in cases of gall stone, but without any good effect. In three instances of the latter disease, the patient found relief from the use of cream of tartar.

Of the other papers contained in this volume, we shall content ourselves with enumerating the general heads, viz. 1. Experiments on sea water, by Sir Thorb. Bergman. (See Vol. I. of our Journal, page 74) 2. Observations to prove that the magnesia of nitre is not a calcareous earth; and 3. Remarks on Platina, and the *lapis hydrophaphanus*, or *oculus mundi*, by the same: all these have been since reprinted in his *Opuscula Chymica*. 4. An account of the worms that are found

found in wheat, and the means of destroying them, by Mr. Bierkander; 5. A description, with engravings, of the *Protea Sceptum Gustavianum*, and 6. *Limex Paradoxus*, two plants, and of a new animal discovered at the Cape by Dr. Sparmann; 7. Experiments with the Electrophorus; and 8. Observations on the declination of the needle at Stockholm; 9. An account of a wound of the femoral artery successfully treated by Olaus Acrel, M. D. &c. (see our present volume, page 20) with an appendix by Professor Martin, pointing out the cases of aneurism which may be cured by pressure, and those in which a ligature is necessary; 10. A description of the *Hydnora Africana*, accompanied with an engraving of the fruit, by Dr. Thunberg; 11. Remarks on the draining of marshes, by Mr. Gadd; 12. A description of the *Gentiana Saxosa*, by Geo. Forster. 13. Remarks on the management of bees, by Mr. Ahlgren; 14. on the culture of potatoes, by J. Alstroemer; 15. An account of an African animal of the fox kind, by Mr. Skoldebrand; 16. Observations on the declination of the needle in several places within the polar circle, by Mr. Hellant; 17. A description and engraving of the *Pinus Viminalis*, ramulis elon-

gatis, dependentibus, flexuosis, laxis, a new species of pine that grows in Upland and Südermamlund, by Baron Clas Alströmer, and Dr. Sparrmann. 18. Observations on the *Lapis hydrophtus*, or *oculus mundi*, in several papers, by Messrs Pötzsch, Qwist, Veltheim, A. Murray, and Brümich.

III. H. A. Wrisberg, M. D. & *Anatomes Professoris*, *Dissertatio de Preternaturali et raro Intestini Recti cum Vesica Urinaria coalitu et inde pendente Ani defectu, Observationibus Anatomicis superstructa. Cum figuris.* 4to. Gottingæ. 1779.

THIS dissertation, which has been announced in a former number of our Journal, seems to be entitled to a more particular notice, as containing a very accurate account of a curious anatomical fact, which is briefly as follows,

On the 17th of December, 1777, Mr. Kaufmann, surgeon at Gottingen, was desired to visit a child two days old, who was said to have no anus, but in other respects was apparently healthy and well formed. Mr. Kaufmann found this infant voiding at the mouth a frothy, bilious mucus,

mucus, mixed with milk. He immediately requested the assistance of our author, who advised the making an artificial anus. An incision was accordingly made in the centre of the space between the coccyx and scrotum. The knife was carried slowly and cautiously through a considerable portion of fat, into the pelvis, but without success.

As it seemed impossible to discover the course of the intestine, and there was danger of wounding the bladder, they agreed not to attempt any farther operation, but to leave the affair to nature. Soon after this, at the second visit, they found the child's linen stained with the meconium, a small quantity of which had been discharged from the urethra. This circumstance led our author to imagine that the rectum communicated with the bladder.

The artificial anus being of no use, the lips of the wound were brought together by suture. In order to promote the discharge of the meconium, warm milk was injected into the urethra, but without the desired effect. The child languished till the 23d of December, when it died.

Upon dissection it was discovered, that about the second vertebra of the sacrum, the rectum
had

had deviated from its ordinary course, and passing transversely towards the bladder, suddenly lessened into a cone, which terminated at the posterior part of the bladder, with which it communicated by a small orifice that would with difficulty admit a pin's head.

Dr. Wrisberg observes, that this rectum, if it may be so called, seemed to be only a continuation of the colon or iliac plexus, and that the true rectum appeared to be altogether deficient: for the longitudinal bands, usual in the colon, were distinctly continued in this new intestine, even to its extremity; whereas in other subjects they change into a broad thick muscular coat, which belongs to the true rectum, and of which there was hardly any vestige in the one here spoken of.

This singular termination of the rectum in the bladder was not the only extraordinary circumstance observed in this subject. Two muscles, viz. the *sphincter* and *levator ani* were entirely wanting; and a third, the *accelerator urinæ*, or the *bulbo-cavernosus*, as our author calls it in imitation of Winslow, was very different from what it usually is.

IV. *A General View of the Writings of Linnæus.*

By Richard Pulteney, M. D. and F. R. S. 8vo,
Payne, *London*. 1781. 425 pages. 6s. boards.

WE have here a concise and judicious view of the writings of a Professor, whose talents enabled him to reform the whole science of natural history.

The work begins with some biographical anecdotes, which, as the author modestly informs us, have been almost wholly collected from Linnæus's own writings, and other printed works, and are introduced principally to relieve the tediousness of a bare account of books, and to connect in a better manner the series and occasions of his publications, all of which are noticed in this performance; but as most of them were subservient to his great object the *System of Nature*, the outlines of that work bear a principal part in the volume before us.

Charles von Linné, we are told, was the son of a Swedish divine, and born May 24, 1707, at Roeskhult in the province of Smaland, in Sweden. His father was soon after preferred to the living of Stenbrihuet, in the same province, where

where dying in 1748, at the age of 70, he was succeeded by another son. The family took their name from a large lime or linden tree, yet standing on the farm where Linnæus was born.

From the straightness of his father's income, our young naturalist was on the point of being destined to a mechanical employment; but fortunately this design was over-ruled. In June, 1717, he was sent to school at Wexfio, from whence he was removed to Lund, and from this last place in 1728 to Upsal, where he soon contracted a close friendship with Artedi, one of his fellow-students, whose name is so famous in Ichthyology.

Olaus Celsius, who was the restorer of natural history in Sweden, being struck with the diligence of Linnæus, admitted him to his house, his table, and his library. In 1708 he was deputed by the Academy of Sciences at Upsal to make the tour of Lapland. This tour had been made for the first time by the elder Rudbeck in 1695, but unfortunately the whole fruit of that expedition, except two or three copies of the *Campi Elysi*, perished in the dreadful fire of Upsal, in 1702. In this journey, the greatest part of which was performed on foot, Linnæus
though

though young and robust, was frequently quite exhausted. He was wont to sleep under the boat with which he and his companions (two Laplanders, one his interpreter, the other his guide) forded the rivers. In descending one of these rivers, he narrowly escaped perishing by the oversetting of the boat, and lost many of the natural productions which he had collected.

After his return to Upsal, he presented a *florula Lapponica* to the Academy, in which he arranged the plants according to the sexual system. In 1733 he visited the several mines in Sweden, and the year following was employed to investigate the natural productions of Dalekarlia, where he taught mineralogy and practised physic. Here he contracted an acquaintance with the daughter of a Dr. More, physician of the place, whom he afterwards married.

In 1735 Linnæus travelled over many other parts of Sweden, some parts of Denmark and Germany, and fixed in Holland, where* he took his doctor's degree in physic in the month of June of that year. His thesis on that occasion was entitled *Hypothæsis nova de febrium intermittentium*.

* At Harderwyck.

mittentium causa. In this year also he published his first sketch of the *Systema Naturæ*, in 12 pages in folio. The year following he came to England, where he was well received by Dillenius, Dr. Martyn, Mr. Rand, Mr. Millar, Mr. Collinson, and particularly by Dr. Isaac Lawson. Boerhaave's letter to Sir Hans Sloane on this occasion is preserved in the British Museum, and runs thus: "*Linnæus qui has tibi dabit litteras, est unice dignus te videre, unice dignus a te videri; qui vos videbit simul, videbit hominum par, cui simile vix dabit notis.*" The coolness with which he was received by Sir Hans, was probably (as our author suspects) owing to the attachment of the latter to Ray's method. Linnæus speaking afterwards of London, in a letter to a friend, called it, "*Punctum saliens in vitello orbis.*"

To persons who with great merit possess but little advantages of fortune, it may not be unpleasant or unprofitable, to observe the slender beginning from which Linnæus rose to ease and affluence in life. "*Exivi patria triginti sex nummis aureis dives,*" are his own words. Boerhaave, who knew how to appreciate his talents, recommended him to the patronage of
Mr.

Mr. Clifford, with whom he resided for a considerable time near Harlem. The same celebrated Professor afterwards recommended him to be physician at Surinam, but Linnæus declined accepting the offer, on account of his having been educated in so opposite a climate. At his request, however, the appointment was given to a young German physician of great merit, who had the misfortune to fall a sacrifice partly to the climate, and partly perhaps to ill usage from the governor, in half a year after his arrival: a circumstance which Linnæus has very pathetically lamented in the *Flora Suecica*, when treating of a plant to which he has given this gentleman's name.

Early in 1738 he visited Paris, but previous to this journey he had published not only his *Systema Naturæ*, but likewise 1. his *Fundamenta Botanica*, in which the science of Botany is reduced to 365 aphorisms. It passed through several editions, and was published with a comment on each aphorism in 1751, under the title of *Philosophia Botanica*. 2. *Bibliotheca Botanica*, in which botanic writers are distributed into sixteen classes. 3. *Genera Plantarum*, which our author considers as one of the most capital of

Linnæus's works. We are told that before the publication of the first edition he had examined the characters of 8000 flowers. "Those alone, observes Dr. Pultney, who have been accustomed to examine plants with a scientific view, can judge how arduous this undertaking must have been." The first edition of this book contained 935 genera; the sixth and last in 1764, 1249; and the Mantissæ have since extended the number to 1336. The flowering of the Plantain or Banana, in Mr. Clifford's garden, induced him to give a complete description of that plant, which is a model for monographers in this way. The same year likewise (1737) produced the *Corollarium Generum cui accedit Methodus Sexualis*—the *Flora Lapponica*—and the *Critica Botanica*. Ludwig, when speaking of the latter of these says "*rigorosus quidem, sed sæpissimè felix botanicorum censor est.*"

In 1737 also he published, at the expence of his patron, the *Hortus Cliffortianus*, the most splendid of all his writings. The drawings for it were made by Ehret. Of this work Dr. Pultney observes, that from the copious number of synonyms, it is almost a pinax of every plant therein contained.

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The last performance of his own which Linnæus published in Holland, was his *Classes Plantarum*, which is a very large illustration of the second part of his *Fundamenta*, and contains a compendious view of all the systems of botany.

Linnæus, whilst in Holland, lost his friend Artedi, whose papers he with some difficulty procured and published in 1738, in 8vo. Artedi was unfortunately drowned in one of the canals of Amsterdam on his return from England, where he had been to perfect his system.

Toward the latter end of 1738, Linnæus returned to Sweden, and settled as a physician at Stockholm, where he met with considerable opposition, and was oppressed with many difficulties, all of which at length he overcame, and got into extensive practice. He was appointed physician to the Admiralty, and had a stipend from the citizens for giving lectures in botany. The Royal Academy of Sciences instituted in 1739, chose him their first president, and in 1741, upon the resignation of Roberg, he was appointed joint professor of physic and physician to the King with Rosen, who had been nominated the preceding year on the death of Rudbeck. Rosen undertook to teach anatomy, physiology, pa-

thology, and therapeutics; Linnæus, natural history, botany, materia medica, the dietetic part, and the diagnostics.

During the interval of his removal from Stockholm to Upsal, he was deputed by the states of the kingdom to make a tour to the islands of Oeland and Gothland, in order to make such inquiries as might tend to improve agriculture and the arts. On his return, he entered upon his professorship, and on this occasion pronounced his oration '*de Peregrinationum intra patriam necessitatem*,' Oct. 17, 1741. In 1745, his *Iter Oelandicum et Gothlandicum* was printed at Stockholm, as was also his *Iter Scanicum*. As a proof of the little attention that had been paid to natural history in Sweden, it is observed that in the former of these journies he discovered above 100 plants, which before were not known to be indigenous; many of them such as are used in physic and in dyeing. In the *Iter Oelandicum* there occurs a curious remark on vegetation, confirming the annual increase of wood in an oak tree, in which were perfectly distinguished the hard winters of 1568, 1787, and 1709, by the narrow circles in those years.

Soon

Soon after his establishment at Upsal he laboured to get the botanic garden put on a better footing. At that time it did not contain above fifty exotics, but his correspondence with the first botanists in Europe soon supplied him with great variety. He received Indian plants from Jussieu and Van Royen; European plants from Haller and Ludwig; American ones from Collinson and Catesby: and a variety of annuals from Dillenius, so that from his *Hortus Upsalienfis* published in 1748, it appeared that he had introduced 1100 species, exclusive of Swedish plants and varieties.

In 1745 appeared his *Flora Suecica*, and in 1746 his *Fauna Suecica*. About this period he received an *Herbarium* collected by the famous Dr. Paul Herman. This collection had been lost for upwards of fifty years, until chance threw it into the hands of Mr. Gunther, apothecary to the King of Denmark, who sent it to Linnæus, with a request that he would examine it, which he did, and was thereby enabled to form many new genera, and to settle many doubtful species. He published the result of his laborious researches under the title of *Flora Zeylanica*, illustrated with figures of upwards of 200 of these

plants. Linnæus authenticates this herbarium to have been Herman's, by shewing that the numbers and the plants answer to his *Musæum Zeylanicum*, published in 1717.

In 1749 Linnæus published his *Materia Medica* for the use of his students. The same year too appeared the first volume of *Theses* in 8vo. under the title of *Amœnitates Academicæ*, of which six other volumes have since been published. As these academical dissertations were sustained by Linnæus in his professorial character, and were selected by himself, they have been regarded as of equal authority with his own writings.

In 1751 while Linnæus was meditating one of his principal works, he had a long and painful fit of the gout. Upon the recovery of his health, he published his *Philosophia Botanica*, which may be considered as the institutions of the Linnæan system of botany. In this work, says Dr. Pulteney, it is difficult to determine whether we ought most to admire the genius of the author in his inventive power, or that exquisite arrangement which he has given to the whole.

In 1753 appeared the *Species Plantarum*, which Dr. Pulteney calls '*opus maximum et æternum*'.

* *num.* To give this work its utmost perfection had been the author's object for many years, and to this all his other productions are in some measure only preparatory. As this work contains all the plants of the known world which had come to Linnæus's knowledge, or rather inspection (as he seldom admits any on the authority of others) and which at the publication of these volumes appear to have amounted to 7,300 species, all varieties excluded, Dr. Pulteney regrets that it could not have been extended by the author himself to a complete pinax and history of every plant therein described.

In this year also Linnæus published his *Museum Tessinianum*, or a description of the cabinet of his first patron and great friend Count Tessin. In 1754 he did the same office for the Royal Museum.

We now begin to see him in a more elevated situation in life. His reputation had already procured him honours from almost all the Royal Societies in Europe, and his own sovereign had created him a Knight of the Polar Star. It was now no longer *laudatur et alget*. His practice in his profession became lucrative, and we find him soon after possessed of his country house and

gardens at Hammarby, five miles from Upsal. He had moreover received a flattering testimony of the extent of his fame. This was an invitation to Madrid from the King of Spain, there to preside as a naturalist, with the offer of an annual pension for life of 2000 pistoles, letters of nobility, and the free exercise of his own religion. To this singular honour, after the most perfect acknowledgements, he returned for answer, "that if he had any merits, they were due to his own country."

In 1755 the Royal Academy at Stockholm honoured him with one of their first premiums. In 1759 he also obtained the prize of 100 ducats from the Academy at St. Petersburg, for the best paper written to establish or disprove, by new arguments, the doctrine of the sexes of plants. This was the more honourable to him, as a Professor of that Academy had a few years before endeavoured to overturn the Linnæan system.

The great character of Linnæus and his colleagues, particularly of Rosen, raised the credit of the university of Upsal so much, that the number of students was nearly double what it is said to have been thirty or forty years before.—

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The travels of many of his pupils afforded him great sources of information, and enabled him to enlarge and improve his System of Nature, which in the 12th and last edition is enlarged from 226 to 1327 pages.

After giving a very full account of this publication, Dr. Pulteney proceeds to consider his *Genera Morborum*. This classification of diseases constitutes but a small part of his works, yet as Linnæus was an early writer on this subject, which has since excited the attention of many physicians, and is at this day not sufficiently discussed, Dr. Pulteney has thought proper to exhibit it more largely than many of his other writings. In this performance Linnæus has nearly retained the arrangement of Sauvages, although he has altered his terms and constituted one more class, the exanthematic or eruptive fever, which in the systems of Sauvages and Cullen, form an order or subdivision of a class.

In 1776 he published a small piece entitled *Clavis Medicinæ duplex, exterior et interior*, which may be considered as a syllabus of his lectures. In 1771 appeared his last work under the title of *Mantissa altera*.

In the preface to his *Flora Lapponica* he had given hopes of a compleat natural history of that country, under the title of *Lachesis Lapponica*. Mr. Pennant once reminded him of it, and received for answer :

Nunc nimis fero inciperem :
 Me quoque debilitat series immensa laborum,
 Ante meum tempus cogor et esse senex
 Firma sit illa licet ; solvetur in æquore navis,
 Quæ nunquam liquidis ficca carebit aquis.

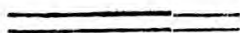
It appears that Linnæus enjoyed upon the whole a good constitution. At times, however, he was subject to hemicrania and gout. In 1776, his infirmities increased apace. At the latter end of that year he was seized with an apoplexy, which left him paralytic ; and at the beginning of 1777 he suffered another stroke, which very much impaired his mental powers. But the disease, which was the more immediate cause of his death, was an ulceration in his urinary bladder. He died January 11, 1778, aged 70 years and 8 months, leaving a widow, a son, and five daughters.

Elizabeth Christina, one of his daughters, made herself known to the learned world in 1762,
 by

by a discovery which was published in the Swedish Acts of the same year. It related to a curious, and before quite unobserved appearance in the flowers of the Indian cresses, which she had perceived to emit spontaneously, at certain intervals, sparks like those of electricity. This was only visible in the dusk of the evening, and ceased when total darkness came on. Mr. Wilcke considered it as an electrical phenomenon.

The memoirs of Linnæus and his writings are followed by a brief account of the contents of the *Amœnitates Academicæ*, and a translation of the *Pan Suecus*. This last was presented to the English reader by our author several years ago in the Gentleman's Magazine, but is here reprinted with additional observations, and some improvements in the general arrangement of the tables.

The work closes with a catalogue of the writings of Linnæus.



V. *Atti dell' Accademia delle Scienze di Siena.*
i. e *Transactions of the Academy of Sciences at*
Sienna. Vol. v. 4to. Sienna, 400 pages,
with four copper plates.

O F

OF the papers contained in this volume, only the two following come within the plan of our journal :

1. *An account of a pure, native, concrete vitriolic acid.* By Joseph Baldassari. The substance here described was found by our author in a cave near the hot baths of St. Philip, in the neighbourhood of Sienna. The springs that supply these baths issue from a mountain, which from its abounding with lava and other volcanic productions, is with good reason supposed to have been formerly a volcano. The bottom of the cave is covered with a native chrystallized sulphur, and the sides and top of the cave, afford minute, white chrystals which taste like spirit of vitriol, and prove to be a pure vitriolic acid.

2. *An account of a reputed hermaphrodite.* By Francis Caluri.—Augustus Broli, the person who is the subject of this paper, and who was said to be an hermaphrodite, having been examined by our author, was found to have a small penis with an imperforated prepuce. There was no appearance of testicles externally, and instead of a scrotum, the cutis formed a ridge furnished with a foramen through which urine and, occasionally, semen were
dis-

discharged. In other respects he had all the appearance of a male, except that instead of a beard he had only a soft down. From the author's account it seems clearly to appear that this person, like all those who have hitherto been described as hermaphrodites, is in reality a male with some malconformation of the organs of generation.

VI. *An Enquiry into the Source from whence the Symptoms of the Scurvy, and of putrid Fevers arise; and into the Seat which those Affections occupy in the Animal Economy; with a View of ascertaining a more just Idea of putrid Diseases than has generally been formed of them. By Francis Milman, M. D. F. R. S. Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, and lately one of Dr, Radcliffe's travelling Physicians. 8vo. Doddsley, London, 1782. 231 pages, 3s.*

IT has been very properly observed by a learned and respectable modern writer, that
 “the more we know of the human body,
 “the more reason we find to believe that the
 “seat of diseases is not to be sought for
 “in

“ in the blood, to the sensible qualities of
“ which they seem to have very little relation *.”

The volume before us is founded on this idea, which the author has pursued with considerable ingenuity, and illustrated by a variety of interesting observations collected from different writers.

In his preface to the work Dr. Milman remarks, that some authors have attempted to point out the supposed nature of the vitiated state of the blood, which has been said to be putrid in one disease, and acrimonious in another. The term *putrid* when applied to the diseases of the animal œconomy, he considers as extremely vague and equivocal in its signification. Where—he asks—are the instances recorded of putrid blood drawn from the living body ? or where is the physician who would assert, that a putridity of the vital circulating fluid would be for a moment compatible with animal life ? He is of opinion then that putrid diseases have been said to be constituted by a cause which cannot exist, and he undertakes to prove that the doctrines which have been

* See Medical Transact. vol. II. page 505.

founded

founded upon this idea, have been no less pernicious in their tendency, than groundless in their principle; and have biased improperly both our attempts to prevent, and our endeavours to cure those complaints.

As the histories of the scurvy and of putrid fevers furnish particular and striking proofs of these general assertions, he confines his inquiries chiefly to those two subjects. The parts of the work which relate to the scurvy were read in July 1780, as the Gullston lecture at the college of Physicians. His first view was merely to discover the causes of Captain Cooke's success in preserving his men from the scurvy, and to account for the symptoms of that disease: but in extending his inquiry, experiments on the actual state of the blood, both in the scurvy and in putrid fevers, made by the most able and unprejudiced physicians, are adduced to shew how extremely mistaken those persons have been, who have referred the proximate cause of the former to a putrefaction of the blood, gradually accumulated; and of the latter, to a sudden corruption of it.

In the introduction to the work Dr. Milman, as a proof of the great fatality of the scurvy,
remarks

remarks that in the war before the last, more persons were said to have been destroyed by this disease alone, than to have perished by the wreck of storms, and the united efforts of our combined enemies. Great however—says he,—as is the number of seamen which have been carried off by this disease in a short channel cruize, amounting frequently in an inconsiderable fleet to many hundreds, a late celebrated navigator, with a company of one hundred and eighteen men, actually performed a voyage of three years and eighteen days, through all the various climates from 50° . north to 71° . south lat. with the loss only of one man. He proposes, therefore, however humiliating it may be to the medical profession, to correct the errors of our systems, by the experience and wisdom of Captain Cooke.---The introduction concludes with a short account of some of the most striking features of the scurvy.

The work itself is divided into twelve chapters. In the first chapter, Dr. Milman treats of the predisposing causes of scurvy, which he refers to a state of body impaired by preceding illness; to the want or excess of exercise;

cise; to cold and moisture, or to a gloomy, sorrowful state of mind.

The occasional or exciting causes are the subject of the succeeding chapter. These exciting causes, we are told, are principally three, viz. a diet of difficult digestion; food containing but little nourishment, or, certain passions of mind. Each of these causes as well as those spoken of in the preceding chapter are treated at some length, and illustrated by remarks from Lind, Rouppe, Kramer and other practical writers.

Dr. Milman next treats of the means of preventing the scurvy. These he observes must be as various as the circumstances which predispose to it, or the causes which excite it. To aim at any universal rule of opposing its invasion, he thinks, would be equally absurd and empirical. The bark, chalybeates, &c. he observes, are well calculated to guard the convalescent or to secure a relaxed constitution; but in the cold regions of Russia, such medicines would be poor substitutes for warm baths and flannel cloathing, and on the other hand, these, which are of so much benefit to the Russians, would serve only to increase the weakness, and

to hasten the approach of the disorder to the infirm valetudinarian. By an attention to cleanliness, by guarding against fatigue, and by providing at all times a plenty of fresh water, Captain Cooke's seamen lived with impunity on their salt provisions. And in the very northern regions, in Greenland and in Lapland, continues our author, notwithstanding the predisposing cold of those climates, a diet of easy digestion, without the aid of any vegetable substance whatever, has afforded equal safety.

Dr. Milman thinks it has arisen entirely from a neglect of these distinctions, that our endeavours to prevent the scurvy have generally been frustrated. Instead of attending to the means of guarding against indolence, fatigue, cold, &c. we have been led by delusive theories to represent other things of less moment as matters of much greater consequence ; and a greater stress has been laid on the use of the robs of lemons, &c. than on the measures which have been mentioned. Sailors, he observes, seem to have been taught to rely too much upon us, and too little upon themselves, and to expect that security from medicines, which is only to be derived

derived from their own conduct and good management.

In the fourth chapter our author treats of the proximate cause of scurvy, and after quoting the observations of Monchy, Lind, Rouppe and others, he concludes that it does not consist in a putridity of the blood, as Sir John Pringle was led by his experiments to suppose.

Dr. Milman next takes occasion to speak of the irritability of the muscular fibres, and of the causes which lessen this power. He then proceeds to consider the symptoms of the scurvy as described by Boerhaave and Van Swieten, all of which he contends sufficiently prove that the scurvy is not a disease of the fluids; that its seat is in the muscular fibres; that its proximate cause consists in a gradual diminution of the vital power by the remote causes of this disease; that the torpor, weakness, &c. observed in all the functions are the first effects of the proximate cause, the diminution of the vital power; and that the subsequent diminished cohesion between the particles of the muscular fibres, and the tendency of these to putrefaction, are links of the chain, and are ultimately derived from the same source.

These observations on the scurvy are followed by inquiries into the history of putrid diseases, which the author thinks will add confirmation to the doctrine just now advanced.

The seventh chapter contains a concise character of *Typhus* from Dr. Cullen. In the succeeding chapter, Dr. Milman enumerates the predisposing causes of putrid fevers, after which he proceeds to treat of their occasional causes, and of the means of defeating their operation.

The chief exciting cause, he supposes to be contagion; under which term he includes all sorts of matter occasioning putrid fevers, as well that active poison, which is generated by unclean persons in confined places, as those noxious effluvia which arise from low, marshy grounds. As the specific nature of all such matters is entirely unknown to us, and as experience has not yet taught us any antidote by which we can disarm them of their virulence, the prevention of the diseases, which they are apt to occasion, must depend principally upon our correction of that state of our body by which we are predisposed to them, and upon our avoiding, as much as possible, the exciting causes, at that time especially when we feel ourselves

ourselves under the influence of any of the predisposing ones. In the opinion of Dr. Milman, the following advice of Celsus, contains nearly every thing which can be said upon this subject.

“ Vitare oportet—say he—fatigationem, cruditatem, frigus, calorem, libidinem: tam neque mane surgendum, neque pedibus nudis ambulandum, minimèque post cibum. Cum vero hæc in omni pestilentia facienda sint, tum in eâ maximè quam austri excitarint.”

Some of the more modern physicians, however, remarks our author, not content with inculcating the observance of these rules, flatter themselves with the idea of possessing remedies against the exciting causes of putrid fevers. Sylvius pretended to have discovered such a prophylactic in the vegetable acids. Diemerbroeck thought the smoking tobacco equally efficacious; and the late Sir I. Pringle was of opinion that the circumstance of the plague, pestilential fevers, &c. having abated in Europe during this last century, ought to be ascribed principally to the general use of antiseptics. But that either of these means have a power by any antiseptic or other effect, of disarming the occasional cause of such complaints,

or of defending our bodies against their impressions, Dr. Milman contends is contradicted by the experience of every country. The Turks, he observes, suffer exceedingly from the plague, though they are in the constant use of the vegetable acids, and smoke more tobacco than other people, and again at Marseilles, they who purified every thing that was brought to them with vinegar, did not escape the plague more than their neighbours who adopted no such precaution.

In treating of the different opinions which have been maintained with respect to the nature of the proximate cause of fever, which is the subject of the tenth chapter, our author quotes the writings of Sydenham, Chenot and others to prove that in the plague and putrid fevers the blood is not in a dissolved state, and that it is the irritable principle of the body which is chiefly affected by it, whence he concludes that the muscular fibres are the seat of putrid diseases.

In the eleventh chapter our author returns to the subject of scurvy. It has been matter of much controversy, whether the scurvy be a disease with which the ancient physicians were acquainted,

acquainted, or whether it be the production of later times. The affirmative part of this question "that the scurvy was both known to and "described by the ancients," has been maintained by the most distinguished persons for their learning from Sennertus to Mead. The authority of Freind seems to be the chief support of the negative side of the argument; that celebrated writer in his History of Physic, having, merely on the authority of Fabricius, spoken of the scurvy as a new disease, and the offspring of the 15th century.

Dr. Milman thinks it right to discuss this point, because it may be of consequence to the doctrine he has advanced, to prove, that, as some of the causes to which he has referred the scurvy are such as may at times prevail in almost every country; so in fact it has, at some period or other, been found to exist in most parts of the globe. He observes that in the Græcian, in the Arabian, and in the Roman authors, we shall find many accounts and passages, which cannot be deemed to refer to any other complaint. The accounts given by Hippocrates, Paulus Ægineta and Avicenna of the *σπλην μέγας* are quoted by our author as
 seeming

seeming to afford a presumption that the disease described under that name was no other than the scurvy. To this he adds a description of the Εἰλὶς αἱματίτης of Hippocrates which he thinks is still more agreeable to that of the scurvy than that even of the σπλην μέγας. The *Stomacace* and the *Sceletyrbe*, diseases mentioned by Strabo (lib. 16, p. 1127) as having affected the Roman army in an expedition into Arabia under Ælius Gallus, do likewise, in the opinion of our author, correspond with the known character of the scurvy, and with the sources from which it is now observed to arise. The last quotation he presents us with on this subject is from Joinville, an old French writer, who, in his history of St. Louis, is unanimously admitted by every one to have given a perfect description of the scurvy which afflicted the Christian army in Ægypt in 1260.

In the twelfth and last chapter, Dr. Milman treats of the cure of the scurvy and putrid fever. With regard to the scurvy, the author contents himself with enumerating the remedies which have been the most successfully employed in this disease, by Lind, Kramer, and others. They consist, we are told in such things as act upon the simple solid as nourishment: and in such medi-
cines

cines as operate upon the moving fibres, as sudorific, diuretic, stimulant, or tonic remedies. These enquiries naturally lead him to examine Sir John Pringle's theory of antiseptics. The accuracy of the experiments on which that theory was founded, our author does not mean to impeach. It is their application, and the conclusions from them, which he ventures to question. He cannot bring himself to think, that the furnace or the crucible of a chymist affords a fair criterion by which we are to judge of the nature of a medicine; or that the change which it produces on the dead fibres, is to be a rule by which we are to estimate the probable effects of it on the animal machine.

The same principles are applied by our author to the cure of putrid fevers. He observes that substances which have an antiseptic effect on the dead fibres of animals, often produce putrid symptoms in the living body. He sets the experience of Sir John Pringle against his experiments, and appealing to the practice of that learned and candid physician in the jail fever, makes it appear that while his chief views were directed to the supposed putridity of the fluids, his practice was unsuccessful; that when petechiæ ap-

appeared, and the pulse began to sink, Sir John found it necessary to vary his method, and to have for his principal intention the support of the vis vitæ; that an accident of a mortification of the back of a man, to whom he had applied a blister, having induced him to give the bark at this period, he was led from the advantage derived from it, to give it at the same period in other cases; and that he did this with such astonishing success, that though he was very unfortunate in the event of his former plan of practice, yet that out of thirty-nine cases he treated in this last method, he lost but four. Reasoning on these facts, our author is led to remark that in cases of this sort, the combined powers of camphire, serpentaria and contrayerva, though they stand foremost in the list of antiseptics, are inefficacious; bark, which is inferior to them in antiseptic virtue, exceeds them in its effect as a remedy. This he accounts for by referring its effect to its action as a tonic on the nervous fibre, while it is yet in the stomach, before it can exert any preservative virtues on their mixture. So quick, he adds, is its operation in fevers, that Sir John Pringle himself confesses for that reason, that

that its febrifuge qualities must be very different from its antiseptic ones.

Dr. Milman thinks he may be justified in concluding, that the habitual and daily use of antiseptics does not prevent putrid diseases; and that the application of the most efficacious ones does not cure them: that the vegetable acids are serviceable by gently promoting the proper excretions by the skin and by the kidneys; and that the bark operates by its tonic strengthening powers.

VII. *Elements of the Branches of Natural Philosophy connected with Medicine; viz. Chemistry, Optics, Acoustics, Hydrostatics, Electricity, and Physiology; including the Doctrine of the Atmosphere, Fire, Phlogiston, Water, &c. Together with Bergman's Tables of Electric Attractions, with Explanations and Improvements. By J. Elliott, M. D. 8vo. Johnson. London. 1782.*
302 pages with 4 copper-plates.

THE utility of natural philosophy to the medical practitioner, must be sufficiently obvious, when it is considered that the faculties
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of the human body are intimately connected with those powers of nature which are in a more especial manner the object of that science. But for want of some easy compendium like the present, this interesting branch of knowledge has perhaps been less generally cultivated than it ought to be by students of physic.

The whole is written in a clear familiar manner, and is divided into three parts. The first treats of chemistry, including the doctrine of the atmosphere, fire, and other subjects connected with that science. The second relates to optics, acoustics, hydrostatics, and electricity; neither of which could properly be comprised under the head of chemistry. The third is confined to physiology, or the philosophy of the human body.

To give a minute account of a performance of this nature would be superfluous, we shall therefore present our readers with the following extract from the section on chemical elective attractions, as a specimen of the author's manner.

“ Spirit of vitriol is a combination of vitriolic acid with water. If to this compound you add thin plates of copper, and give a due degree of heat, the copper will be dissolved. The mixture

ture therefore will be blue vitriol and water, which might easily be separated by the methods already described. If to this solution you add plates of iron, the acid will leave the copper, and unite with the iron. As the latter dissolves, and the former is let go by the acid, it deposits itself upon the iron plates, so that they look like copper: but when the iron is all dissolved, the copper will fall to the bottom in form of a powder. The clear liquid being decanted will therefore be a mixture of water and green vitriol. If to this solution zinc be added, the acid will leave the iron by degrees, and unite with the zinc, and the iron will fall to the bottom in form of a powder, as the copper did before. The clear liquor being decanted, will be a solution of white vitriol in water. Add volatile alkali to this solution, the acid will leave the zinc to unite with the salt; the zinc will be precipitated, and the clear liquor being decanted will be vitriolic sal ammoniac and water. Add *fixed* alkali to this liquid, the acid will unite with it, letting go the *volatile* and the mixture will be vitriolated tartar, and spirit of sal ammoniac. The latter may be obtained by distillation, the former remaining behind. Mix this salt with an equal quantity of
fixed

fixed alcali, and add powdered charcoal, equal to about a fourth part of the weight of the whole. The charcoal, you will observe, contains phlogiston, combined with a vegetable earth, and the alcali is added to make the vitriolated tartar melt, which it will not easily do without such addition. Put these ingredients into a crucible, and apply a sudden and strong heat for a short time; the vitriolic acid will leave the fixed alcali, to unite with the phlogiston of the charcoal. The mixture therefore is now common sulphur, fixed alcali, and vegetable earth; that is, an impure liver of sulphur. Dissolve the mass in water, the earth will subside, and the clear liquid will be a solution of liver of sulphur, and fixed alcali in water. Decant or filter this liquid; and to obtain the sulphur, look in the table for fixed alcali; you will find above sulphur several acids. Add a sufficient quantity of either of these, the alcali will quit the sulphur to unite with the acid, and the sulphur will fall to the bottom in a powder, which you may separate from the liquid, and melt into a roll.— And thus will you have had successively spirit of vitriol, blue vitriol, green vitriol, white vitriol, vitriolic sal ammoniac, vitriolated tartar, and sulphur;

fulphur ; each of which might easily have been obtained in their usual forms."

SECTION II.

ESSAYS AND OBSERVATIONS.

- I. *Farther Remarks on the Method of treating the remittent Fevers of the West Indies ; with Observations on the best Means of preserving Health in Jamaica.* By Dennis Ryan, M. D. *In a Letter to Robert Adair, Esq; Inspektor-General of Hospitals.* Communicated by Dr. Simmons, F.R.S. Read Jan. 7, 1782.

I Have formerly had occasion, in a letter to my worthy friend Dr. Simmons, to mention some of the principal circumstances that distinguish the fevers of this country from those which prevail in Europe, and have taken notice of the particular treatment which such peculiarities seemed to require.* I have in general observed, even in the most violent instances, not excepting those which are attended with a yellowness of the surface of the body, that the fe-

* See our Journal for October 1781.

vers here seldom assume the proper continued type ; and that, unless the patient is carried off by the first attack, an evident remission commonly takes place ; so that in nine cases out of ten they may be said to come under the denomination of remittents. In the beginning they are for the most part attended with some inflammatory symptoms, but these are seldom so severe as to make bleeding necessary, except in persons of full and robust habits. A vomit given in the very commencement of the disease may be of great service in discharging the foul and bilious contents of the stomach, but at a more advanced period a constant retching renders its use often precarious, and sometimes inadmissible. It is however, always proper to obtain a speedy evacuation by the intestines. The patients should get oranges in abundance. In general they wish for them, and besides their refrigerant and laxative effects, where the vomiting is troublesome, they often put a stop to it, and supercede the employment of opiates for that purpose. For common drink, a beverage made with lime-juice, water, and a little sugar, seems to be the best and most grateful ; nor have I seen any disadvantage arise from indulging the patient

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occasionally with draughts of cold water. Antimonials, when the stomach is not too irritable, and warm fomentations to the abdomen and lower extremities, are other means proper to be employed in this stage of the disorder. But where there occurs a violent delirium, great benefit may be obtained from the use of a blister, or by drawing some blood from the temples by means of cupping-glasses, or from the arm, if the patient's strength will allow it.

About the third day, and sometimes earlier, a remission occurs, and, soon after, symptoms of debility manifest themselves; or as some writers express it, too weak a re-action takes place. Nature becomes too feeble to combat the disease, and calls for support and assistance. To answer this end, in some countries much confidence seems to be put in the use of contrayerva, serpentaria, and other cordial medicines. Thus at *La Charité*, a celebrated hospital at Paris, I have frequently seen instances of low nervous fevers, in which the physicians contented themselves with prescribing the *potio cardiaca minor*; and when great loss of strength, and perhaps involuntary discharges threatened danger, the *potio cardiaca major* was substituted for it. But in

in this climate, these remedies should never be employed except it be to assist the operation, or supply the want, of others which are more powerful and certain in their effects. As soon then as the remission takes place, we must have immediate recourse to the bark, in substance. And, as I have observed elsewhere, some cases will require it in decoction even before the fever has abated, whilst in others the symptoms are so urgent, that at first sight you must give it in substance, as the delay of giving a vomit or a purge may prove fatal to the patient. The rule is, to give the bark in as great a quantity as the stomach can bear. The use of oranges should be still continued, for they tend to make the bark sit easy on the stomach, and keep the body open. Where they have not this effect, small doses of sal polychrest will be occasionally necessary. If on the contrary the bark should occasion a purging, it must be combined with opiates. If the stomach will not retain it, it must be employed in glysters and fomentations.

I believe it may be laid down as a rule, that in most cases of fever, where the bark is necessary, wine is likewise proper. But though the practitioners in this country are in general unani-

unanimous as to the importance of the bark; yet that does not seem to be the case with respect to the use of wine. I happened once to be present when two or three of the most respectable physicians in the island held a consultation on the case of a patient, who, besides other dangerous symptoms, was affected with a coldness of the upper and lower extremities. They ordered him the bark in great quantity, but seemed to lay no stress on the use of wine. However, I cannot help giving it as my opinion, that in such cases, where the powers of life are evidently sunk and oppressed, there is reason to apprehend that the bark will remain an inactive load on the stomach, and that the employment of good wine is the most expeditious and effectual means of giving a stimulus to the system, and recovering the patient from the danger with which he is threatened. Some of the patients whom I had under my care recovered after the occurrence of the symptoms above mentioned, which I am inclined to attribute to the liberal use of wine, as much, if not more than to the effects of the bark. And I must own that I have found an observation, which I heard from my learned master, Dr.

Cullen, always true and well founded, viz. that wine is of little service unless it be given in large quantity. I know some medical gentlemen, who say, that about half a pint of wine a day is sufficient for any soldier in an hospital : but I think I have saved the lives of several soldiers, by allowing them eight times that quantity. Dr. Cullen mentions a case of Typhus where, I think, the patient was said to have taken seven bottles of claret in the space of twenty-four hours ; but the doctor doubts whether the nurse may not have assisted him. Whatever may be the case in private practice, I believe, that in public hospitals of every kind, the orderly-men and nurses are too apt to think that the patients may dispense with less wine than is ordered for them ; and hence they are tempted to make free with their allowance. This I have known to be the case ; and as it cannot easily be prevented, it is, I think, a circumstance that should be had in view, when wine is prescribed. It is better to make some allowance for the nurse or orderly-man, who if they do their duty, have no small hardship to go through, than that the life of the patient should

should be lost, from his being stinted in what is judged necessary for him.

Notwithstanding what I have said in favour of wine, I must own that I have met with some few cases, wherein, though a slight remission afforded an opportunity of giving the bark, still symptoms of irritation and phlogistic diathesis rendered it advisable to be sparing and cautious in the use of wine. But a man may always proceed with safety in such cases, by taking care to judge of the propriety of the measures, which he has adopted, only by the effects which they produce. Thus if I find that wine has made the pulse full and steady, from being feeble and quick; that it has diminished the febrile heat and anxiety, and removed, instead of increasing, any delirium that might have been present, so as to bring on a certain serenity of mind; if it occasions a gentle moisture on the skin, if it removes thirst, and lastly, if the patient has a craving desire for it, I have no doubt but I should persist in its use. But if the effects which it produces be opposite to those just now mentioned, it is evidently contraindicated. It may be asked whether it be necessary to give the bark in every case of pro-

per fever in this country? In answer to this question, I must own that in the military hospitals I have met with a few patients, whose fevers began in the ordinary manner, but during the remissions, either through their dislike of the bark, or the neglect of the orderly-men, this remedy was not employed; notwithstanding which they recovered. Besides, in some particular habits the bark, although given only in the time of remission, seems to cause great irritation, anxiety, and quickness of pulse. I remember to have seen an instance of this kind. The first passages were evacuated, and some blood taken away, and as there were appearances of danger, it was thought proper as soon as a remission took place, to try the bark in a large quantity, but the patient had so great an aversion to it, that he could not be prevailed on to take it, and the anxiety which followed his swallowing a dose of it, together with the efforts he made to throw it up again, may well have arisen from this disgust. Notwithstanding this, after a very severe disease, he recovered, and thanked his stars that he escaped by following his own inclinations in spite of the doctors.

Some time last December, I was myself affected

fects with the usual signs of the beginning of a fever, attended with a sensation of prickling cold all over my body. I was shortly after seized with a head-ach, considerable heat, and quickness of pulse. These symptoms continued to grow worse as the day declined. At night I took an emetic which discharged a quantity of bile; but the febrile symptoms continued as before, and were accompanied with great restlessness and anxiety. The following day a mixture was made up for me, composed of three pints of lemonade, in which an ounce of sal polychrest, and five grains of tartar emetic, had been dissolved. Of this I took about a tea cup full every two hours, and in the intervals made use of sage and balm tea. In eight or ten hours the mixture operated by the intestines, and brought on a gentle diaphoresis; so that on the beginning of the third day I had a distinct remission from the fever. Dr. Ledwich, a skilful physician in Kingston, who attended me, immediately proposed the bark. But however liberal I was of it to others, I had such disgust to it myself that I intreated, and persuaded him to defer employing it, till after another exacerbation; but the fever did not return, though

the effects of the first attack were so severe that I was confined to my room for several days.

It appears then that there are some cases of fever in which the bark is not necessary. And I have been informed by Dr. Prendergast, an eminent physician, who has practised with great reputation for some years in Kingston, that instances of this kind mostly occur among the natives, and such as have resided for some time in the country, both of whom, he says, are sometimes of such inflammatory habits, as to bear repeated bleedings. But as cases of this kind are rather rare, and as the symptoms by which they may be known in the beginning from others of a more dangerous tendency, are not yet fully ascertained, it seems proper and necessary to try the bark in every case, as soon as a remission occurs. To act otherwise is imprudent, as it is beyond doubt, that in all hot climates, thousands die for want of this valuable remedy; and as it is equally certain, that a patient seldom or never dies in consequence of having taken it under proper management.

Several rules have been laid down, for preserving the health of strangers on their arrival here; but some of them, I think, are abused,
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and the rest are but little attended to. When people are exposed from their situation to malignant putrid disorders, and a foul infectious air, the peruvian bark has been justly recommended as a prophylactic, and I make no doubt but the use of it in this country, during the sickly months, may be attended with great advantage in some constitutions, but it should be employed with caution and moderation. I know people here who, on the appearance of any indisposition, immediately swallow half an ounce, or even a whole ounce of bark in substance, and repeat it as they think occasion requires. I cannot, however, help thinking that there are few who would derive any benefit from this practice. I believe I may even venture to say, that there are but few to whom it would not prove prejudicial. Fevers, in this climate, are allowed to begin in general with inflammatory symptoms; now as the bark is possessed in an eminent degree of the powers of increasing the tone and vigour of the sanguiferous system, it is evident, that when taken in this manner, it will have a tendency to make the first attack of the fever more dangerous and violent than it otherwise might be. Besides this, it may have
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another bad effect in binding the body, and causing an accumulation of bile, which never fails to aggravate the symptoms of every disease in warm climates: and when a man accustoms himself to take so powerful a remedy, as the bark is, in great quantity, at a time that he does not stand in real need of it, he has reason to expect the less advantage from it, when his life may be in danger, and its use becomes essentially necessary. To prevent then any evil arising from what is intended as a remedy, it may not be improper to confine those who take bark as a prophylactic, to a glass or two of an infusion of it, to be taken every morning, and those who seem chiefly to require it, are such as are of feeble, languid habits, and have been formerly liable to remittent or intermittent fevers.

Temperance, and a strict adherence to a regular mode of living, is another of the means recommended for the preservation of health in this climate. But it must be owned that the inhabitants of this island live as freely as if the advice had been, '*veneri, vino, gulæ indulgeatur.*' I have seen no country where people in general are of a more sociable and friendly disposition,
and

and however they may differ from each other in political matters, they are firmly united as members of civil society. The pleasure with which they enjoy the gifts of fortune, and the fruits of their industry, is proportioned to the number of those whom they make partakers of them. And that hospitality for which Ireland, and some parts of Great-Britain were formerly renowned, seems now to have fixed its residence in this country. But it is to be observed, that these observations apply less to Kingston, the inhabitants of which are almost all in a commercial line, than to any other part of the island. Where a spirit of society and hospitality thus prevails, people are seldom very abstemious; for when men come together with an intention to forget their cares and be happy, they naturally employ every means that have the effect of making them believe they are so. And as it is well known that good cheer and good liquor answer this end, it is an established custom here to have recourse to them on all such occasions. Even the spiritual and medical advisers of temperance and regularity, are themselves infected with the love of this kind of society and good living; and the
old

old phrase,—Do as I say, but don't do as I do, is no where more necessary.

It is however surprising to see what good health people enjoy who live almost continually in this unrestrained manner ;—and what is more strange, I have seen several who, on their arrival from Europe, have pursued the same measures with impunity. One could not from reason and speculation promise them such length of days as they frequently enjoy. There has been lately instituted at Kingston a club, or society, called the European Club, of which no man can be a member that has not been thirty years resident in the island. The great number who within this month have attended this meeting, and the still greater number, who though qualified could not be present, on account of the distance, leave us no room to doubt that many Europeans live to a good old age in Jamaica ; and the very copious libations of claret with which they celebrate this festival, plainly tell us that they are no water-drinkers, and that it is not by abstemiousness they have got the better of this climate.

I am aware that some people may be apt to conclude from this account, that on their arrival here they may set out without restraint, and
live

live as they see others do ; but such a conclusion would be altogether unjust, and might prove pernicious. For though the inhabitants have by long habit inured themselves to drink and live freely, without any apparent ill consequence, it would be exceedingly dangerous for strangers at once to adopt their example. I have, indeed, just observed, that some strangers have done so with impunity ; but they were such as had been hardened in the same habit before they left Europe. Others must proceed by slow and cautious steps, and run many risks before they can arrive at the security I speak of. And I am confident that many from too great impatience to accomplish their wishes, lose their lives in the practice of those very measures, which are necessary to attain it. I cannot then hesitate still to recommend temperance as the surest and safest means of preserving the health, particularly of strangers, in this, or any other part of the West-Indies. It is more especially necessary for such as happen to be any way sickly or infirm : though as most people come here more with a view to mend their fortunes than their constitutions, there are but few in that situation on their arrival : on the contrary, they are in general

general such as would be able to bear a great deal, if they could be persuaded to live within due bounds of moderation, and resist the wrong and imprudent counsels of those who themselves transgress them. I know several gentlemen in this island, who live happy, though in a very moderate and abstemious manner. And the ladies who commonly drink nothing but water, enjoy the best health.

Besides avoiding excess in drinking, and free living in general, strangers should accustom themselves to early rising, and sea-bathing, where it is convenient. They should not expose themselves too much to the sun, or to the night-winds, when they are overheated. They ought to take frequent but moderate exercise in the cool of the day, and refrain from meat suppers, and what are called here second breakfasts. They should be particularly careful to keep their bodies open by the use of fruit and vegetables, or other means, if necessary; as nothing is more unfavourable to health in this climate than a costive habit. I must also caution them against a kind of medley, which is drank here by way of cordial, between breakfast and dinner: it is composed of rum or brandy, mixed with milk,
water,

water, nutmeg, and sugar, and from some salutary effects it is supposed to produce, it has got the name of *doEtor*,—but it should rather be ranked among the *quacks*, and so doomed to fall into the disuse and contempt it deserves.

In other respects, those who enjoy good health, should not be over anxious about themselves, or think it necessary to dabble with medicines. But even though surrounded on every side by death and sickness, they should preserve a constant gaiety and cheerfulness of mind; and not allow the apprehensions of future danger to embitter the enjoyment of present happiness.—They should follow that excellent advice of Celsus: “*Sanus homo qui et bene valet, et suæ spontis est, nullis obligare se legibus debet; ac neque medico neque iatroalipia egere. Hunc oportet varium habere vitæ genus: modo ruri esse, modo in urbe, sæpiusque in agro: navigare - - - quiescere interdum, sed frequenter se exercere.*”*

I send you these observations, such as they are, from a desire I have that the medical history of this island may be better known than it is at

* Lib. i. cap. i.

present, and I hope that your indulgence and approbation of my feeble essays, may encourage others, who have more leisure and abilities, to pay attention to the same subject, and be more full and satisfactory in their accounts.

Jamaica,
April 24, 1781.

II. *Case of a fatal ulceration of the bladder, occasioned by a caries of the os pubis; with an account of the appearances on dissection. By Mr. Edward Ford, Surgeon to the Westminster General Dispensary. Communicated in a letter to Samuel Foart Simmons, M.D. F.R.S. and by him to the Society. Read Feb. 4, 1782.*

MARY Hudson, the patient of whose case you have requested me to give you an account, was a healthy girl 'till about the age of fourteen, when she began to complain of great pain in making water, and voided several small stones with her urine, which was generally purulent and bloody. She could not ascertain a more probable cause of her disorder, than that she formerly had received a blow upon the pubis

his. Either the poverty of her relations, or her own delicacy, prevented an immediate application for relief. Seven or eight months had elapsed before she made known to her friends the nature of her disease, and as it did not then appear alarming, they were not immediately urgent for medical assistance; but they were soon after convinced of the imminent danger of her situation. It was at this period of the disease that I first saw her. She was then in a very emaciated state, and besides the local symptoms above-mentioned, was troubled with an hectic cough, universal languor and debility, nocturnal sweats, and every concomitant of an absorption of matter. These symptoms, soon after, terminated in death. Being desirous of examining the state of the bladder, as the symptoms of the case indicated some extraordinary disease there, I procured leave to open the dead body.

The external view of the parts afforded nothing preternatural. The abdomen was opened in the usual manner, but there was not the least morbid appearance in any of the contained viscera. The bladder alone seemed strongly contracted and thickened, a circumstance common to those who have from disease a habit of expel-

ling their urine before it is collected to a considerable quantity. Upon introducing a catheter into the bladder, several small stones were felt, and a little purulent urine was evacuated. I now suspended my enquiry till the bladder with the parts adjacent were taken from the body. In the course of this dissection, in separating the bladder from its connexion with the symphysis of the os pubis, the point of the knife passed into a cavity of that bone, from which issued a spoonful or more of matter. This cavity in the os pubis was found to be adapted to, and exactly to communicate with an ulcer in the bladder. When the parts were removed, the whole substance of the os pubis was found to be carious. Anteriorly it was defended only by a ligamentous covering, and behind was the cavity just now spoken of, communicating with the bladder, and containing little pieces of bone that were almost wholly incrusted with a fabulous matter. There was also a hollow leading down from hence to the tuberosity of the ischion on the left side, this part of the bone being also carious, and several bits which were separated from it, likewise covered with a similar concretion.

From

From this view of the parts it was evident that an instrument introduced into the bladder might have passed into the centre of the bone; and as the matter discharged by the meatus urinaris seemed to have its source from this caries, it was fortunate that the girl was not searched for the stone, as any operation which the supposed existence of calculi might have rendered advisable, would have suffered a disgrace from its unavoidable ill success.

The stones found in the bladder were evidently incrustations upon nuclei of exfoliated laminæ from the bone which had penetrated into the bladder.

The primary cause of all this mischief seems to have been the contusion, or perhaps fracture of the bone; but it is difficult to explain why the corrosive discharge which had so much affected the ischion, did not find a passage from thence to the inside of the thigh, and form a suppuration there, since that part of the bone to which the two heads of the triceps muscle are attached, was almost entirely destroyed. The patient had, indeed, some time before her death complained of a pain on the inside of her thigh, to which topical remedies had been applied, but we could not find there any marks of an approaching suppuration.

III. A TABLE of the Greatest, Least, and Mean Heights of the Thermometer and Barometer, and of the Fall of Rain in London in 1780. (From the Philosophical Transactions, Vol. 71, Part I.)

1780:	Thermometer without.			Thermometer within.			Barometer.			Rain. Inches.
	Greatest Height.	Least Height.	Mean Height.	Greatest Height.	Least Height.	Mean Height.	Greatest Height.	Least Height.	Mean Height.	
January	47,0	20,0	31,9	40,5	24,5	33,6	30,35	28,59	29,77	0,692
February	53,5	20,0	37,8	49,0	31,0	38,4	30,52	29,08	29,91	0,858
March	59,0	34,5	51,4	56,5	36,0	49,9	30,45	29,38	29,91	1,189
April	65,5	33,0	46,7	65,0	38,0	48,0	30,17	28,81	29,65	2,739
May	84,5	45,0	59,7	74,5	51,0	60,4	30,28	29,38	29,94	0,822
June	84,5	48,0	62,9	76,0	50,0	63,2	30,37	29,79	30,01	0,852
July	82,0	54,0	66,4	78,5	61,0	69,4	30,34	29,59	30,05	1,602
August	83,5	58,5	69,2	76,5	62,0	68,3	30,20	29,85	30,05	0,485
September	84,0	48,0	61,3	79,0	56,0	65,2	30,20	29,14	29,83	2,903
October	66,0	41,5	52,3	65,0	46,0	53,9	30,29	28,66	29,69	2,356
November	52,0	26,0	42,0	53,0	36,0	43,6	30,47	28,94	29,85	2,505
December	50,0	24,0	38,5	46,5	32,0	39,8	30,55	29,69	30,29	0,310
Whole Year			51,7			52,8			29,91	17,313

SECTION III.

MEDICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL NEWS.

THE Royal Medical Society at Paris have proposed the following question for a prize of 400 livres : “ What are the diseases that
 “ prevail the most commonly among the troops
 “ during the summer, and in very hot weather ;
 “ what is the most simple and least expensive
 “ method of treating them, and lastly, what
 “ are the means to be employed for preventing
 “ or moderating their effects in very hot cli-
 “ mates, as in the windward or leeward islands ?”
 The dissertations on this subject are to be written in Latin or French, and sent to M. Vicq D’Azyr, secretary of the society, before the 1st of December, 1783.

The Royal Academy of Sciences at Paris have offered a premium of 2400 livres to the
 G 3 person

person who shall: "find out the easiest and
 "cheapest process for decomposing sea salt, and
 "extracting the alkali, that serves as its basis,
 "in a state of purity, free from any acid or other
 "combination, provided the value of this mi-
 "neral alkali does not exceed the price of that
 "which is procured from the best foreign soda."
 The dissertations on this subject are to be written
 in French or Latin, and sent to the Marquis de
 Condorcet, secretary of the Academy, before
 Easter 1783.

The Academy have likewise proposed the fol-
 lowing subjects for a prize of 1500 livres;
 "1. To make a chemical analysis of borax, of
 "sedative salt, and of the earth of crude borax
 "as it is brought from the East Indies; 2. To
 "make artificially, if it be possible, borax or
 "sedative salt, or some other saline substance
 "which may be employed as advantageously as
 "borax in the arts, and especially in the fusion of
 "metals; 3. To enquire whether there exists a
 "native sedative salt in any part of the world
 "except in the waters of the lake of Monte
 "Rotondo in Italy, in which it has already been
 "found."

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The academy being sensible of the difficulties attending the satisfactory discussion of these three heads of enquiry, give notice, that if amongst the dissertations that may be sent to them any one shall be found to contain new and important observations, the author's not having directed his researches to every part of the subject, shall be no obstacle to his receiving the premium. The dissertations are to be sent to the secretary on or before the 1st of November 1783.

The Academy of Sciences at Toulouse have proposed the following subject for a prize of 100 pistoles : " To ascertain the effects which
 " air or aeriform fluids introduced into, or generated in the human body, have on the animal
 " œconomy." The dissertations are to be written in French or Latin, and sent to the secretary on or before the 31st of December, 1783.

No subject, perhaps, has engaged the attention of philosophers of late years more than the question concerning the nature of phlogiston.

By some it has been considered as the matter of fire; by others as the matter of light, or of both; while many, in consequence of this uncertainty, have even gone so far as to deny its existence. The sagacity of Dr PRIESTLEY has at length enabled him to resolve this difficult problem, as will appear by the following extract of a letter from that gentleman to one of his friends in London, dated Birmingham, March 12, 1782.

“ I threw the focus of a burning lens on calx of lead in *inflammable air*; the air was rapidly absorbed; lead was formed, and what remained of the air was as inflammable as ever.

“ From forty ounce measures of the air, I revived about five pennyweights of lead. The inflammable air was from iron. In the same manner, I have revived iron, and tin. I also make strong nitrous air by throwing nitrous vapour into inflammable air,

“ This seems to prove that phlogiston, is the very same thing with inflammable air in a state of combination with bodies, exactly as fixed air is contained in chalk, &c. so that phlogiston may be exhibited *by itself*, as well as any other substance in nature.”

Dr,

Dr. Priestley has further observed, that in nitrous, and phlogisticated air, only *glafs of lead*, and not the *metal*, is obtained ; and he is now busied in prosecuting this important subject.

Extract of a letter from Sir T. Bergman, professor of chemistry, at Upsal, &c. to a physician in London, (dated Upsal, Feb. 8. 1782.)

“ Ab initio Januarii gravem hæmoptysin sustinui. Notatu est dignissimum, quod aqua selterana, quâ antea per undecim annos molimina hæmorhoidalia, jam vehementissimam provocantia colicam, jam gravissimos capitis dolores, sedavit, excretiones quoque per pulmones efficacius, quam alia media, ad vias consuetas, reduxerit. Scilicet intra quartam diem semper fluxum hæmorrhoidum provocavit et hoc ipso mali causam aufert, nec non spasmos temperat, sanguinem ad superiores partes urgentes. Ultimus impetus, primo autumnali longe vehementior, unicé per aquam selteranam sublatus fuit et intra 8 dies eo usque fui restitutus, ut melius valerem, quam per 3 menses antea. Arte paratam unice bibo, sed quin naturalis idem præstet

præstet non dubito, et opera certe pretium erit in hæmorrhoidibus vel menstruis suppressis idem tentare medium, quod saltem in personis meæ constitutionis salutarem præstabit effectum.— Quod meæ dissertationes non displiceant gaudeo. | Easdem permagni ipsemet non debeo estimare, sed vix in pueris quindecim annorum, ut tales conscribant *, cadere posse confido. Ignorant, qui meam prolem esse dubitant, in quavis facultate bis esse disputandum, priusquam gradus conferatur apud nos. Prior disputatio semper presidem agnoscit auctorem, et plerumque etiam posterior. Si novas veritates probè intelligit et bene defendit Respondens egregium præstasse specimen putamus. Cæterum titulum inspiciant, et opuscula ab auctore collecta revisaque videbunt.—Morbus, quo laboravi impedivit, quo minus hoc anno prodire queat volumen tertium. Plures eo continebuntur, quæ memet in primis

* The learned professor alludes here to a mistake into which some persons have fallen with regard to his essays, which from their having been originally published by students in the form of inaugural dissertations have been erroneously considered as the productions of young and inexperienced writers. The reader may see one of those dissertations announced in our second volume, page 141.

delectarunt, ideoque postea variis novis experimentis easdem ditavi, suis locis inferendis. Huic pertinent præcipue dissertationes, *de phlogisti copia in metallis; de ferri analysi; de productis volcanicis; de attractionibus electivis; et nonnulla alia.*"

A LITERARY and PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY hath lately been instituted at Manchester. The number of ordinary members is limited to fifty; but this limitation is not to preclude any number of gentlemen, distinguished for their literary or philosophical abilities, and residing at such distances from Manchester as to prevent their attendance at the weekly meetings of the society, from being elected honorary members. Mr. Henry, F. R. S. and Mr. George Bew are the secretaries of this new institution.—The following amongst other ingenious papers, have already been read before the society :—1. Observations on Dr. Dobson's account of the Harmattan; by Alexander Eason, M. D. 2. Observations on heated rooms; by George Bell, M. D. 3. Miscellaneous observations on the application of natural history to poetry; by T. Percival.

val. M. D. F. R. S. &c. 4. An account of some experiments made in a heated room; by Thomas Henry, F. R. S. 5. On the advantages arising from the institution and well regulated support of a philosophical society; by John Wright, M. D. 6. On the antiseptic and chemical effects of quick lime on sea water; by Mr. Henry. 7. On chrySTALLISATION; by Dr. Eason. 8. A comparative view of the moral and intellectual powers of man; by Dr. Percival. 9. On the affinity subsisting between the arts; by the Rev. Mr. Barnes. 10. On the different success, with regard to health, of some attempts to pass the winter in high Northern latitudes; by Mr. Aikin. 11. On the formation of salt-petre; by Mr. Massey.

Dr. Bloch of Berlin has obtained the prize of an hundred rix dollars, offered some time ago by the Royal Society of sciences at Copenhagen, for the best dissertation on the symptoms and treatment of worms in the intestines.

A case of Hydrophobia has occurred lately at the Middlesex Hospital. The patient, a middle aged

aged man, was admitted into the hospital on the 15th of December 1781. He had been bit the same day, upon the cheek, by a large dog. The wound was of considerable extent, reaching from the lower eyelid to the left corner of the mouth. As there was no reason to suspect that the dog was mad, common dressings were applied to the wound, and in less than three weeks after the accident it was perfectly healed, so that on the 8th of January 1782, the patient was discharged from the hospital apparently in good health. The next day he was brought back labouring under symptoms of Hydrophobia. The persons who accompanied him to the hospital related, that he had that morning been thrown into convulsions by attempting to swallow a little tea; and that he seemed conscious of his madness, having desired his wife to take care that he did her no injury.

It was remarked that the part in which he had been bit looked a little red; this fact seems to confirm the truth of an opinion lately suggested relative to the hydrophobous infection; which is, that before the disease actually makes its appearance, a second inflammation takes place in the wound or its cicatrix. That the patient had
a very

a very particular, uneasy sensation in the part, is very evident from this circumstance, that the moment he came into the hospital, he requested that something might be applied to his cheek; and that from that time till his death he was observed, when free from convulsions, to be almost incessantly putting his hand to his tongue and carrying it from thence to the cheek in which he had been bit.

When he was re-admitted into the hospital he appeared to be much agitated; his tongue was white, and his pulse full and considerably quickened. The sight of water did not then or at any time afterwards give him the least uneasiness, but whenever he attempted to drink he was immediately seized with spasms of the throat and with violent effort to vomit.

To combat this melancholy disease every method was adapted that the reading and experience of the learned and ingenious physician who had the care of the patient, could suggest to him. Mercurial ointment was applied to the cicatrix in the cheek; and musk, cinnabar, and a variety of other remedies were prescribed internally but without the desired effect.

When

When the patient tried to swallow his medicines he took them hastily from the point of a knife, but though he chewed and was very desirous to swallow them, he seldom succeeded, getting down only a very small portion of them and that with difficulty. During the whole of the first day (Wednesday January the 9th) he gave rational answers and readily attempted to do whatever was desired. He passed the night without the least disposition to sleep. His pulse became smaller and quicker, and he was troubled with a constant flavering of a thick frothy mucus. The next day (January the 10th) about one o'clock in the afternoon his difficulty of swallowing seemed to be lessened, as he was able to get down a little water out of a tea-pot, but soon after this he became outrageous and was obliged to be bound to his bed. In this state he continued till his death which happened about three o'clock.

Upon dissection after death, the surface of the tongue and fauces was found to be white but not dry. The muscles of the tongue were apparently sound; the submaxillary glands somewhat enlarged; the œsophagus slightly inflamed, and the lymphatic glands near it larger than common.

The

The stomach and duodenum contained a large quantity of yellowish bile. The rest of the abdominal viscera afforded no remarkable appearance. The lungs seemed to be rather fuller of blood than usual, and adhered at different parts to the pleura. The vessels and ventricles of the heart were quite empty, and the *liquor pericardii* was in very small quantity. On examining the brain the dura mater appeared to be in a contracted state, and near the longitudinal sinus it adhered firmly to the pia mater. A small quantity of a watery fluid was observed between these two membranes at the posterior part of the brain. The sinuses appeared to be more turgid than usual, but the quantity of water in the ventricles did not seem to be greater than what is natural.

X Some experiments made by Mr. Mönch, an ingenious German apothecary, and published in the first part of Professor Gell's *Neueste Entdeckungen in der chemie* for 1781, prove that calcined magnesia is less soluble in acids than hath been generally imagined. These experiments were made with magnesia precipitated from Ep-
some

from salt, and calcined in a covered crucible after having beenedulcorated with repeated washings with distilled water.

Upon twenty grains of this calcined magnesia, in a clean glass vessel, Mr. Mönch poured half an ounce of strong vinegar. No effervescence ensued, and after suffering the mixture to stand for twenty four hours only seven grains of the magnesia were found to be dissolved. The same experiment was afterwards repeated with fresh lemon juice instead of vinegar, and with the same result, excepting that instead of seven, the lemon juice dissolved only four grains of the twenty. Mr. Mönch next poured an ounce of vinegar upon twenty grains of the same calcined magnesia; the mixture was boiled for a considerable time, but only ten grains of the magnesia were dissolved.

Mr. Mönch took half an ounce of a mixture composed of strong vitriolic acid one part, and water six parts. This was poured on twenty grains of the calcined magnesia, and placed in a moderate degree of heat; but at the end of twenty hours only seven grains of the magnesia were dissolved. An ounce of the same diluted

H

acid

acid of vitriol boiled for a considerable time with the same quantity of magnesia as in the former experiment, dissolved only nine grains of it.

The nitrous acid and concentrated marine acid were found to dissolve the magnesia entirely, but no such effect was produced by mixing it with the gastric juice of different animals. Even the gastric juice which was vomited up by an hypochondriacal patient, altho' it effervesced strongly with powdered crabs-eyes, dissolved only two grains out of ten of the calcined magnesia.

Two new medical works are expected soon to be published in London : one of them, entitled "*Fragmenta Medica et Chirurgica*," is the production of Dr. William Fordyce ; the other is a practical tract on the Venereal disease, the author of which is Dr. F. Swedjar.—At Edinburgh, Dr. Cullen is said to be preparing for the press a treatise on Nervous diseases.

 P R O M O T E D.

J. S. Hausmann, to be professor of anatomy at Brunswick in the room of the late Dr. Rollin.—M. Barthez, professor of physic at Montpellier, to be first physician to the Duke of Orleans at Paris in the room of the late Dr. Tronchin.—J. C. F. Voitus to be professor of surgery in the Royal medico-chirurgical college at Berlin.—Christ. Fred. Nurnberger, M. D. to be professor extra. of physic at Wittemberg.—J. C. Starke, to be professor extra. of physic at Jena.—Sam. Thomas Soemmering, M.D. to be professor of anatomy and surgery at Cassel.—John Godfrey Leonhardi to be professor extra. of physic at Leipzig.—Dr. William Hunter to be one of the eight foreign members of the Royal academy of sciences at Paris, in the room of the late Dr. Tronchin.—Dr. William Cleghorn, to be lecturer in anatomy in Trinity-college, Dublin, in the room of his uncle, Dr. George Cleghorn, who resigned in his favour.

1782, *January* 9. Dr. John Cooke to be physician to the General Dispensary in London, in the room of Dr. Nathaniel Hulme, who has resigned.—23. Dr. John Turton to be physician extra. to the King, and physician in ordinary to the Queen, in the room of the late Sir J. Pringle, Bart.—Dr. Thomas Gisborne to be physician to the Queen's household in the room of Dr. Turton.—26. Mr. Robert Barnewall to be apothecary to the General Hospital in the Leeward islands.

Feb. 9. Mr. John Stewart to be surgeon to the Royal regiment of horse-guards, in the room of James Mackenzie, M. D.—16. Mr. William Turner, hospital mate, to be surgeon to the 104th regiment of foot.—Mr. Home to be surgeon in ordinary to the Savoy prison.

D I E D.

1780, *March* 23. At St. Petersburg, John James Lerche, first physician to the Russian army; born at Potsdam in 1703.

July 23, at Dresden, Charles Gefner, M. D. physician to the Elector of Saxony.

Sept. 27, at Hall in Saxony, Dr. Adam Niesky, professor of physic.

1781.

1781. At Paris, Julian Buffon, M. D. first physician to the Countess d'Artois, and editor of the French translation of Dr. James's Medical Dictionary.—In the same city, Anthony Casamajors, M. D.—At Brunswick, aged 74, Ernest Jeremiah Rollin, M. D. professor of anatomy.

Jan. 1. Of apoplexy at Rome, aged 68, John Lewis Bianconi, M. D. minister from the Court of Saxony to that of Rome, and one of the foreign members of the Royal Academy of surgery at Paris.—Some time in *January*, at Bremen, aged 55, J. G. Runge, M. D. professor of anatomy and natural philosophy.

Feb. 21. At Gahard, near Rennes in the province of Brittany, in France, Joseph Exupere Bertin, M. D. member of the faculty of physic, and of the Academy of Sciences at Paris, author of an ingenious Treatise on Osteology, in 4 vols. 12mo. published at Paris in 1754, and of several anatomical papers in the Memoirs of the Academy of Sciences. He was born at Trenlay in the diocese of Rennes, June 25, 1712. In 1744, he was appointed by the faculty joint professor of midwifery with the late M. Astruc. The same year he was seized with
a sin-

a singular complaint. It began with a delirium which, after continuing for three days, terminated in a state of lethargy. When he was sufficiently recovered from this attack, he tried the effects of his native air. He experienced several relapses, but in 1750 perfectly recovered his health and intellectual faculties, and returned to Paris, where he married in 1765. After the death of his wife he retired to Gahard. He has left behind him a large work on the arteries, begun in 1739, and presented to the Academy of Sciences in 1775, for their approbation. This work is expected soon to be published.—

Dec. 15. At Forfar in Scotland, the Rev. J. Carr, M. D.

1782. *Jan. 7.* At Glasgow, Mr. Thomas Hamilton, Professor of Anatomy and Botany in the University at that place.—13. At Prescott, in Lancashire, Mr. David Houghton, Surgeon and Apothecary.—15. At Dublin, William Clement, M. D. Regius Professor of Physic, Vice Provost of Trinity College, and Member of Parliament for that city.—17. In Bolt-court, Fleet-street, at the house of his friendly patron Dr. Samuel Johnson, Mr. Robert Levet, aged 80, a useful and charitable practitioner of Physic;

fic; born near Hull, in Yorkshire.—19. About ten at night in St. Alban's-street, Westminster, aged 78, Sir John Pringle, Bart. physician extra to the King, physician to the Queen, late President of the Royal Society, &c. His life, written by the Rev. Dr. Kippis, is now in the press, so that we hope soon to be enabled to present our readers with authentic memoirs of this learned and illustrious physician. —Same day, at Carlisle, Mr. Jacob Coulthard, formerly a surgeon and apothecary at Wigton. —22. At Derby, aged 24, Mr. Ferdinand Brown, surgeon and apothecary. —30. At Mucairn in Argyleshire, aged 101, Mr. Archibald M'Calman, surgeon. He made the last 35 years of his life, a period of hermetism, devoted to religion. He studied under Dr. Pitcairn, at Edinburgh, the first and second years of the present century. Born in Charles the second's time, he lived to see the twenty-second year of the seventh reign in his days. During this space, four civil wars at thirty years distance from each other disturbed government.

Feb. 4. At Glasgow, aged 82, Mr. David Paten, senior member of the faculty in that city.

city.—9. At Tunbridge in Kent, Mr. Thomas Slatter, surgeon and apothecary, and member of the Medical Society at Edinburgh.—Same day, at Salford, in Lancashire, Mr. Thomas Walton, apothecary.—14. At Rochdale, in Lancashire, Mr. Cable, apothecary.—22. At Bath, Mr. Gye, apothecary.—28. At Little Chelsea, Mr. John Morton, surgeon in ordinary to the Savoy Prison.

March 13. At Richmond, Surry, aged 82, John Baker, M. D.

SECTION IV.

QUARTERLY CATALOGUE.

I. **A** Letter to Dr. Robert Jones of Caermarthenshire, in answer to the account which he has published of the case of Mr. John Braham Isaacson, student of medicine, and to the injurious aspersions which he has thrown out against the physicians who attended Mr. Isaacson. By *Andrew Duncan*, M. D. Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh; and member of the Royal Societies of Medicine of Paris, Copenhagen

Copenhagen, Edinburgh, &c. 8vo. *Elliot*, Edinburgh; and *Dilly*, London, 1782. 46 pages. 1s.

We have not yet seen the pamphlet to which this is an answer, but the plain narrative of facts contained in the publication before us, confirms us in the high opinion we have long entertained of the abilities and integrity of the learned author, and convinces us that his reputation has been very illiberally and unjustifiably attacked. It seems, however, that Dr. Jones in his *Inquiry into the State of Medicine* has not confined his strictures solely to Dr. Duncan, as several other respectable characters, particularly, Dr. Cullen, Dr. Monro and Mr. Alex. Wood are said to come in for a share of abuse.

Mr. Isaacson, the young gentleman whose case is the principal subject of the present pamphlet, was attacked, we are told, in October, 1780, with a distinctly marked fever, attended with an evident disposition to the putrid state. He was attended by our author and Dr. Monro. In the course of the disease, the patient had much delirium, and the symptoms of putrescency ran to a great height, but by the use of proper remedies he recovered. Mr. Isaacson was no sooner free from the symptoms of fever than

than it began to be reported that his cure was owing to liberal doses of rum and laudanum recommended by Dr. Brown, and conveyed to him by Dr. Jones. This pretended cure, it seems, is particularly insisted on in the *inquiry*, &c. published by the latter. As this story made no little noise, and it was even confidently asserted, that without the interference of Dr. Brown, the patient would have died, our author thought it his duty to inquire into the matter. He found that the patient himself was entirely ignorant of the affair, but his nurse and his landlady upon being interrogated, declared that during Mr. Isaacson's illness, and while he was delirious, Dr. Jones had repeatedly been to visit him, and had endeavoured by intreaties, and even by the offer of a pecuniary reward, to prevail upon them to give him a mixture of rum and laudanum privately, without the knowledge of his physicians; and that at length in order to get rid of Dr. Jones's importunities they had seemingly acquiesced, but that the moment he left the room they threw the mixture into the ashes. Dr. Duncan has inserted at full length the deposition of these two women, and likewise letters from Dr. Monro, Mr. Goodwin,

(a student

(a student of physic who lodged in the next room to the patient, and was present at every consultation of the two physicians) and the patient himself who now resides at Landwade in the neighbourhood of Newmarket. These letters give additional weight to the author's narrative by confirming the truth of every part of it in which either of them was concerned.

The pamphlet concludes with some severe strictures on the conduct of Dr. Jones and Dr. Brown.

2. A Narrative of a singular Gouty Case; with observations. By *John Lee*, M. D. Physician at Bath, member of the College of Physicians in London, and Fellow of the Royal Society. 8vo. *T. Evans*, London, 1782. 27 pages. 1s.

We have here the case of a patient who in his sixty-eighth year, after having been for twenty years subject to frequent returns of the gout, was suddenly seized with a violent strangury, accompanied with a fever: these symptoms were removed in about a week, and soon after his recovery he observed, every morning in the urine, which he had made the preceding night, a great quantity of sediment, of the consistence
of

of glue dissolved in water. This sediment was of a pea green colour, and emitted a very offensive smell. The quantity of it was generally a half pint in three pints of urine. From that time till his death, whenever this humour was suppressed or even diminished, he laboured under a lowness of spirits, loss of appetite, swelled legs or the gout, and he used to say that all these symptoms proceeded from the sediments having gone astray (as he termed it) for as soon as it began to return his complaints lessened, and he recovered his usual state of health.—In the year 1777 this sediment was suddenly suppressed by his walking in marshy ground, and he was soon afterwards troubled with a swelling of the right testicle, and a smart fever. These symptoms were relieved by a return of the slimy appearance in the urine. At length in March 1781, being then in his 77th year, some irregularity in his mode of living was succeeded by a severe cold, and brought on violent pains in his bowels, together with head ach and fever. The sediment, which had so often relieved him by its return, was now suppressed for ever, and he died on the eleventh day of the disorder.

His

His body was examined after death, and in the bladder were found about two spoonfuls of the same kind of sediment which had so often been observed in his urine. One side of the neck of the bladder appeared slightly inflamed, and the prostate gland was somewhat enlarged.

3. *Memoire pour M. D'Ostertag, M. D. et accoucheur juré à Strasbourg, i. e. memorial in favour of M. Ostertag, M. D. sworn accoucheur at Strasbourg.* 4to. Strasbourg, 1781. 39 pages.

A famous empiric, who styles himself the Count de Cagliostro, has lately made his appearance at Strasbourg. In the paper before us we are told that he employed the same remedies for an hundred different diseases, and that a great number of persons are said to have fallen victims to his ignorance. Amongst other patients he was desired to visit a poor woman in labour who had been under the care of our author. The Count administered a few drops of some elixir, as he called it, and the poor woman happening to be delivered soon after, this event was imputed to the medicine and Dr. Ostertag experienced a great deal of calumny. 'Tis with a view to vindicate

dedicate himself from such aspersions that he publishes this memorial.

4 *Dissertatio Inauguralis medica exhibens de morbis nervorum observationes quædam singulares. Auctore F. I. Bruckmann, Brunsvicensi 4to. Gotting 1780, p. 40.*

The author relates four cases found among the papers of his father who was physician to the duke of Brunswick. The first is a case of St. Vitus's dance, brought on in a young girl, by a fright, and cured by the bark. The second is a case of rheumatism in which the nervous system was singularly affected. The third relates to a girl who was subject to the gout, and became so irritable as to have every kind of spasm. In the fourth we have the history of a nervous disorder brought on by the repulsion of a cutaneous eruption.

4. *Experiences sur les vegetaux, &c. i. e. Experiments on vegetables, By John Ingenhousz, Physician to their Imperial Majesties, &c. translated from the English by the author. 8vo. Paris, 1780. 400 pages with plates.*

5. *Dissertation chimique sur les Eaux minerales de Lorraine, &c. i. e. A chemical dissertation on the mineral waters of Lorraine, a work for*

for which the author received the prize offered by the academy of Nancy. By M. Nicolas, demonstrator of chemistry at Nancy. 8vo. Paris, 1780. 116 pages.

6. *Traité des Eaux minerales de Chateldon, de celles de Vichy et de Hauterive en Bourbonnois; avec le detail de leurs propriétés medicinales et leur analyse. i. e. A treatise on the mineral waters of Chateldon, and of those of Vichy and Hauterive in the province of Bourbonnois; with an account of their medicinal properties, and their analysis. By M. Debreft, M. D. &c. 12mo. Moulins, 1779. 359 pages.*

7. *Essai sur les alimens, pour servir de commentaire aux livres dietetiques d'Hippocrate. i. e. An essay on aliments, intended as a commentary on the dietetic books of Hippocrates. A new edition corrected and enlarged. By C. Lorry, M. D. &c. 12mo. Paris, 1781. 2 vols.*

8. *Traité des propriétés et usage de la douce amere, ou solanum scandens, dans le traitement de plusieurs maladies, et surtout des maladies dartreuses. i. e. A treatise on the properties and use of the solanum dulcamara, in the treatment of several diseases and particularly cutaneous eruptions.*

eruptions. By *M. Carrere*, Regius Professor of physic, Cenfor Royal, formerly inspector of the mineral waters of Rouffillon, &c. 8vo. Paris, 1781. 170 pages.

9. *Memoires sur les observations meteorologiques faites à Franeker en Frise, pendant l'année 1779. i. e. Essays relative to the meteorological observations made at Franeker in Friesland, 1779.* By *M. Van Swinden*, Professor of Philosophy in the University of Franeker. 8vo. Amsterdam, 1780. 336 pages.

10. *Parere Medico-legale sopra un fetoa, &c. i. e. a medico-legal consultation concerning a fœtus that came into the world after a pregnancy of 196 days.* By *Lewis Bessi*, M. D. 4to. Florence, 1780. 16 pages.

11. *Traité generale des peches, et histoire des poissons ou des animaux qui vivent dans l'eau. i. e. a general treatise on fisheries, with a history of fishes or of animals that live in water.* By *M. Duhamel du Monceau*, of the Academy of Sciences. Vol. III. sect. IX. 4to. Paris, 1781, with 27 copper-plates.

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T H E
LONDON MEDICAL JOURNAL,

For APRIL, MAY, and JUNE 1782.



SECTION I.

B O O K S.



I. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London, Vol. LXXI. for the Year 1781. Part II. 4to. London, 1782, 318 pages, with 17 copper plates.*

OF the first part of this volume we gave an account in our Journal for September 1781. This second part contains twenty papers, but of these we shall content ourselves with giving abstracts of the three following:

I. *Some calculations of the number of accidents or deaths which happen in consequence of parturition; and of the proportion of male to female children, as well as of twins, monstrous productions, and children that are dead born; taken from the*

VOL. II. N^o II.

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Midwifery reports of the Westminster General Dispensary : with an attempt to ascertain the chance of life at different periods, from infancy to twenty-six years of age; and likewise the proportion of natives to the rest of the inhabitants of London. In a letter from Robert Bland, M. D. physician man-midwife to the Westminster General Dispensary, to Samuel Foart Simmons, M. D. F. R. S.

Dr. Smellie has cursorily mentioned, for the encouragement of his pupils, the small proportion of præternatural and laborious births to the natural; but he omitted to extend his views farther, or to point out the proportionate number of consequent accidents, which might occur to retard or prevent the recovery of the woman, although this is not less necessary to be known than the former. With a view to these and other useful purposes, we are here presented with a variety of interesting *data* founded on a register kept by the author at the Westminster General Dispensary, from its first institution in 1774 to 1781, and in which he has carefully noted,

1. The ages of the several women;
2. the number of children they had borne;
3. the sexes of the children;
4. the number of children they had been able to preserve;
5. the place or country where they and their husbands were born;
- 6, the

6. the accidents that attended, or were the consequences of parturition; 7. the sexes of the children delivered; 8. the number of twins or triplets; 9. the number of children that were deficient or monstrous; 10. the number of children that were dead born, or (where the account could be procured with certainty) who died within four or five weeks from their birth.

From this register Dr. Bland has composed several interesting tables, which, together with his comments on each, are well deserving the public attention.

The first table is calculated to shew the proportion of difficult labours, and of the accidents or deaths that happen in consequence of parturition. From this table it appears that of 1897 women, 1792 had natural labours, not attended with any particular accident; of the remaining 105, 63, or 1 in 30, had unnatural labours; in 18 of these, or 1 in 105, the feet presented; in 36, or 1 in 52, the breech; in 8 the arms; and in 1 the funis presented. Seventeen women, or 1 in 111, had laborious labours; in 8 of these, or 1 in 236, the heads of the children were lessened; in 4 a single blade of the forceps was used; and in the remaining 5, in which the faces of the children were turned to the pubes, the delivery

was accomplished by the pains. One woman had convulsions about the seventh month of her pregnancy, and was delivered a month after of a dead child, and recovered. Another had convulsions during labour; brought forth a live child, and recovered. Nine women, or 1 in 210, had uterine hemorrhage before and during labour; of these, one died undelivered; another a few hours, and a third ten days after delivery, but the other six recovered. Five women had the puerperal fever, of whom four died. Two were seized with mania, but recovered in about three months. In one woman a suppuration took place, soon after labour, from the vagina into the bladder and rectum; this patient recovered, but the urine and stools continued to pass through the wounds. In another woman the perinæum was lacerated to the sphincter ani. A future was attempted, but without effect; she recovered, but is troubled with prolapsus uteri. Five others had large and painful swellings of the legs and thighs but recovered.

In two women, we are told, the uterus was retroverted in the third or fourth month of pregnancy; but in both was replaced without any bad consequence.

Besides the accidents above-mentioned, Dr.
Bland

Bland has thought it right to inform us, that many of the patients were afflicted with severe after-pains, or had what is called the milk fever. Neither of these ever proved fatal, and upon the whole he is disposed to think, that the lower sort of people recover more certainly after parturition than persons in higher stations of life; at least, he observes, they are less subject to the puerperal fever, which is so fatal, if not checked on its first attack; and which, if not caused, is certainly nourished, and its malignancy increased by great fires, close rooms, warm septic diet and costiveness.

The second table contains the proportion of male to female children, the number of twins, and of the children that were deficient, monstrous, or dead born. It seems that 1897 women were delivered of 1923 children; 972 boys, and 951 girls. Twenty-three of the women, or 1 in 80, were delivered of twins, 16 of whom were boys, and 30 girls. One woman was delivered of 3 girls. Eight of the children, or 1 in 241, were deficient or monstrous. Of these one was web fingered, another had a hair lip, a third had a dropfical head and distorted spine, and a fourth simply a dropfical head. In one a part of the palate, and in two others a considerable

nable portion of the cranium was wanting. The eighth had two heads. Dr. Bland's account of this extraordinary foetus is accompanied by a very elegant engraving by Basire, as is likewise his description of another singular monstrous production. Eighty-four of the children, or 1 in 23 of the whole number were dead born*, of these 49 were boys and 35 were girls.

Of 1400 women who returned their letters, or of whom a certain account could be obtained, 85, or nearly 1 in 16, had buried their children before the end of two months. Of the number dead in this period 53, or 5 in 8, were boys, and 32 girls.

This singular circumstance of there being a greater number of males than females among the still-born children, and of a greater number of male children dying in infancy than of females, has been remarked by Dr. Price and other writers on calculations; and Dr. Haygarth has shewn that at Chester more husbands die in a given period than wives. This natu-

* By dead-born children, Dr. Bland means those which die after they have been perceived to move, that is generally after five months. Abortions or deaths before that period, he thinks, may reasonably be estimated at double this number; so that, perhaps, 1 child in 8 dies in the womb, or in the act of coming into the world.

rally suggests an enquiry, whether the lives of males are at all ages more precarious than those of females? To be enabled to assist in answering this question, our author has added the following article to his register, viz. of the number of children that shall be living at the time the women apply for their letters, how many will be boys and how many girls? The result of this enquiry will probably be the subject of a future paper.

The third table relates to the ages at which women begin and cease to be capable of bearing children, and to the intermediate periods at which they are most so.—It appears that of 2102 pregnant women, 85* were from 15 to 20 years of age; 578 from 21 to 25; 699 from 26 to 30; 407 from 31 to 35; 291 from 36 to 40; 36 from 41 to 45; and 6 from 46 to 49.

We are next presented with two tables begun some time after the preceding ones, and which shew the number of children borne by 1389 women, with the number that were living at the

* Thirty-six of these, the author observes, were from 15 to 19, and of these one was between 15 and 16; a second between 16 and 17; three between 17 and 18; ten between 18 and 19; and twenty-one between 19 and 20.

time

time of their applying to the Dispensary. These tables serve to prove how exceedingly fertile the women of the poorer classes in this country are, and at the same time how unable to rear any considerable number of children; for although 321 of the women had borne six children and upwards each, and were all again pregnant, 19 only of them had been able to rear six or more children; and although 102 of the women had borne nine children and upwards each, only one of them had been able to preserve that number living. Our author attributes this great mortality amongst the children to the poverty of the parents, which prevents their taking the necessary care of, or even affording sufficient nourishment and cloathing to their offspring.

We are next presented with some ingenious speculations relative to the chance of life from infancy to 26 years of age in London. From our author's inquiries on this subject he supposes that of 5400 persons only 1620, or 3-10ths would be living at the end of 26 years.

The paper closes with a comparative table of the population of London, from which it appears that of 3236 married persons, 824 were born in London; 1870 in the different counties of Eng-

England and Wales; 209 in Scotland; 280 in Ireland; and that 53 were foreigners.

Dr. Bland observes, that of those born in London, there were one-fifth more women than men. This he accounts for by supposing that a greater number of males die or migrate before they attain a marriageable age than women. He also finds that of the Scotch and of the foreigners the women are in proportion to the men as about 1 to 3; but that of the Irish they are as 3 to 7.

II. *Account of a child who had the small pox in the womb.* In a letter from William Wright, M.D. F.R.S. to John Hunter, Esq. F.R.S. X

From the observations adduced by Mr. Hunter in the *Philosophical Transactions*, vol. 70, and by Dr. Bland in the *London Medical Journal*, vol. 2. it seems clearly to be proved that the foetus is capable of receiving the variolous infection *in utero*. This curious fact is still further corroborated by the paper before us. It relates to a female negro in Jamaica, who had the small pox in the natural way when big with child. They were few, distinct and large, and she went through the disease with very little trouble, till on the fourteenth day from the eruption she was attacked with a fever, which lasted only a few

hours. She was, however, the same day taken in labour, and delivered of a female child with the small pox on her whole body, head, and extremities. They were distinct and very large, such as they commonly appear on the eighth or ninth day in favourable cases. The infant died the third day after its birth, but the mother recovered.

Dr. Wright adds, that in the course of many years practice in Jamaica, he has remarked, that where pregnant women have been seized with the natural small pox, or been by mistake inoculated, they have generally miscarried in the time of, or soon after, the eruptive fever; but that he never saw any signs of small pox on the bodies of any of the children, excepting the one above mentioned.

III. *Experiments on the power that animals, when placed in certain circumstances, possess of producing cold.* By Adair Crawford, M.D. Communicated by Sir Joseph Banks, Bart. P. R. S.

From the first dawnings of philosophy it must have been perceived, that most animals have a higher temperature than the medium in which they live; and that a constant succession of fresh air is necessary to the support of animal life. The causes of these phenomena have afforded
matter

matter for much speculation in ancient as well as modern times: but the discovery that animals have, in certain circumstances, the power of keeping themselves at a lower temperature than the surrounding medium was reserved for the industry of the present age.

This discovery seems originally to have arisen from observations on the heat of the human body in warm climates. It was mentioned by Governor Ellis in 1758; it was taught by Dr. Cullen before the year 1765; and at length it was completely established by the experiments of Dr. Fordyce in heated rooms, which were laid before the Royal Society in 1774.

Various opinions have been entertained with regard to the cause of the facts which were established by these experiments; some have attributed the cold solely to evaporation; others have maintained that it did not arise solely from this cause, but depended partly upon the energy of the vital principle, being greater than what would have been produced by an equal mass of inanimate matter.—The experiments before us were made with a view to determine this point with greater certainty. The ingenious author has prefaced his account of them with a few remarks on the progressive improvements which

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have

*MS Dr Cullen's Paper on 4th Feb
(as produced by Evaporation) is
led to the Discovery which was
was read May. 1. 1755 & inserted
in the Philosophical Transactions on the same
Subject in 1747—*

have been made in the knowledge of heat in general.

To discover whether the cold produced by a living animal placed in air hotter than its body, be not greater than what could be produced by an equal mass of inanimate matter, Dr. Crawford took a living frog, equally moist, and of nearly the same bulk, the former of which was at 67° , and the latter at 68° , and laid them upon flannel in air which had been raised to 160° ; in two minutes, when the air was at 102° , the dead frog was at 72° , and the living frog at 68° , and at the end of 25 minutes the dead frog was at $81\frac{1}{4}$ and the living frog at $78\frac{1}{4}$, the temperature of the air being then at 95° . The internal heat of both animals was found to be the same with that at the surface.—In this experiment the living frog acquired heat more slowly than the dead one. Hence our author concludes that its vital powers must have been active in the generation of cold.

To determine whether the cold produced in this instance depended solely upon the evaporation from the surface, increased by the energy of the vital principal, a living and dead frog were taken at 75° , and immersed in water at 93° , the living frog being placed in such a situation

ation as not to interrupt respiration.—In one minute the dead frog was at 85° and the living one at 81° ; at the end of 5, 6, and 8 minutes the heat of both was stationary, that of the dead frog being $91\frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$, and that of the living frog 89° .—In a note to this experiment the author observes, that the water, by the cold frogs and the agitation it suffered during their immersion, was reduced nearly to $91\frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$.

These experiments prove that living frogs have the faculty of resisting heat, or producing cold, when immersed in warm water, while the experiments of Dr. Fordyce prove, that the human body has the same power in a moist as well as in a dry air; Dr. Crawford therefore thinks it highly probable that this power does not depend solely upon evaporation.

He has observed that healthy frogs, in an atmosphere above 70° , keep themselves at a lower temperature than the external air, but are warmer internally than at the surface of their bodies; for when the air was 77° , a frog was found to be 68° , the thermometer being placed in contact with the skin; but when the thermometer was introduced into the stomach, it rose to $70\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$.

He has likewise found that an animal of the
same

same species placed in water at 61° , was nearly $61\frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$ at the surface, while internally it was $66\frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$. These observations, however, we are told, extend only to frogs living in air or water at the common temperature of the atmosphere in summer, as they do not hold good with respect to those animals, when plunged suddenly into a warm medium, as in the preceding experiments.

To determine whether other animals also have the power of producing cold, when surrounded with water above the standard of their natural heat, a dog at 102° , was immersed in water at 114° , the thermometer being closely applied to the skin under the axilla, and so much of his head being uncovered as to allow him a free respiration.

In 5 minutes the dog was 108° , water 112°

6	—	—	109	—	112
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11	—	—	108	—	112
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the respiration having become very rapid.

In about half an hour the dog was 109° , water 112° , the animal was then in a very languid state.

Small quantities of blood being drawn from an artery and a vein, the temperature did not seem so much increased above the natural standard, and the sensible heat of both seemed to be nearly the same,

same. The venous blood, however, instead of its usual dark red hue, had acquired very nearly the bright florid colour of the arterial; the animal which was the subject of this experiment had been previously weakened by losing a considerable quantity of blood a few days before. When the experiment was repeated with dogs which had not suffered a similar evacuation, the change in the colour of the venous blood was more gradual, but was still so remarkable, that the blood which was taken in the warm bath could readily be distinguished from that which had been taken from the same vein before immersion by those who were unacquainted with the motives or circumstances of the experiment.

To discover whether a similar change would be produced in the colour of the venous blood, in hot air, a dog at 102° was placed in air at 134° .

In ten minutes the temperature of the dog was $104\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$, that of the air being 130° . In fifteen minutes the dog was 106° , the air 130° ; a small quantity of blood was then taken from the jugular vein, the colour of which was sensibly altered, being much lighter than in the natural state.—Dr. Crawford is inclined to consider this effect of external heat upon the colour of
venous

venous blood, as a confirmation of the following opinion, which was first suggested to him by Mr. Wilson of Glasgow, viz. admitting that the sensible heat of animals depends upon the separation of absolute heat from the blood by means of its union with the phlogistic principle in the minute vessels, may there not be a certain temperature at which that fluid is no longer capable of combining with phlogiston, and at which it must of course cease to give off heat?

From the preceding facts our ingenious author proceeds to explain what appears to him to be the true causes of the cold produced by animals when placed in a temperature which is above the standard of their natural heat.

He begins with recapitulating some passages of his Essay on animal heat published some time ago, and in which having attempted to prove that animal heat depends upon the separation of elementary fire from the air in the process of respiration, he observed, that when an animal is placed in a warm medium, if the evaporation from the lungs be increased to a certain degree, the whole of the heat separated from the air will be absorbed by the aqueous vapour.

From the experiments on venous and arterial blood, recited in the third section of that work,

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it appears, that the capacity of the blood for containing heat is so much augmented in the lungs, that, if its temperature were not supported by the heat which is separated from the air, in the process of respiration, it would sink 30° . Hence, we are told, if the evaporation from the lungs be so much increased as to carry off the whole of the heat that is detached from the air, the arterial blood when it returns by the pulmonary vein will have its sensible heat greatly diminished, and will consequently absorb heat from the vessels that are in contact with it and from the parts adjacent. Dr. Crawford thinks, that the heat which is thus absorbed in the greater vessels, will again be extricated in the capillaries, where the blood receives a fresh addition of phlogiston. If in these circumstances, the blood during each revolution were to be equally impregnated with this latter principle, it is manifest, that the whole effect of the above process would be to cool the system at the center, and to heat it at the surface. But from our author's experiments which have been last recited, it appears that in a heated medium the venous blood, instead of acquiring the dark livid hue which Dr. Priestley with good reason supposes to depend upon its combination with phlogiston in the minute vessels, becomes

gradually paler and paler in its colour. From this circumstance Dr. Crawford thinks we may conclude, that in a heated medium the blood does not attract an equal quantity of the phlogistic principle, and that as the quantity of heat given off by the blood in the capillaries will not be equal to that which it had absorbed in the greater vessels, positive cold will be produced. Thus, if the blood, for example, in its passage to the capillaries, absorb from the greater vessels a quantity of heat as 30° , and in consequence of its being less impregnated with phlogiston than formerly, it gives off at the extreme vessels a quantity of heat only as 20° , a degree of refrigeration will be produced as 10° , and this cause of refrigeration will continue to act while the venous blood is gradually assuming the hue of the arterial, till the difference between them is obliterated, after which it will cease to operate. Hence it appears, that when animals are placed in a warm medium, the same process which formerly supplied them with heat, becomes for a time the instrument of producing cold.

Upon the whole, our author considers the increased evaporation, the diminution of that power by which the blood in the natural state is impregnated with phlogiston, and the constant re-

flux

flux of the heated fluids towards the internal parts, as the great causes upon which the refrigeration depends.

Having found that the attraction of the blood to phlogiston was diminished by heat, he thought it probable, on the other hand, that it would be increased by cold. To determine this, a dog at 100° was immersed in water nearly at 45° . In about a quarter of an hour a small quantity of blood was taken from the jugular vein, which was evidently much deeper in its colour than that which had been taken in the warm bath.

Dr. Crawford observes, that from this experiment, compared with those which have been recited above, we may perceive the reason why animals preserve an equal temperature, notwithstanding the great variations in the heat of the atmosphere; for as soon as by exposure to external cold, an unusual dissipation of the vital heat is produced, the blood begins to be more deeply impregnated with the phlogistic principle; that it will therefore furnish a more copious supply of this principle to the air in the lungs, and will imbibe a greater quantity of fire in return: that in summer on the contrary, the reverse of this will take place, and hence the power of generating heat is in all cases proportioned to the demand;

and lastly, that from the changes which are produced in the colour of the venous blood by heat and cold, we may likewise perceive the reason why the temperature of the body is frequently increased by plunging suddenly into cold water, and why the warm bath has such powerful effects in cooling the system, and in removing a general or partial tendency to inflammation.

The other papers contained in this volume are, *Experiments upon gunpowder*, by Benjamin Thompson, Esq. F. R. S. — *An account of a luminous appearance in the heavens*, by Mr. Tib. Cavallo, F. R. S. — *Of an earthquake at Hafodunos near Denbigh*, by John Lloyd, Esq. F. R. S. — *On the heat of the water in the Gulf stream*, by Charles Blagden, M. D. F. R. S. — *Of the appearance of the soil on opening a well at Hanby in Lincolnshire*, by Sir Henry C. Englefield, Bart. F. R. and A. S. — *Astron. observations*, by Nath. Pigott, Esq. F. R. S. — *Abstract of a register of the barometer, thermometer, and rain, at Lyndon in Rutland, 1780*, by Thomas Barker, Esq. — *Natural history of the insect which produces the gum lacca*, by Mr. James Kerr of Patna. — *Account of a phenomenon observed upon the island of Sumatra*, by William Marsden, Esq. — *Farther experiments on cold, made at the Macfarlane obser-*
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vatory belonging to Glasgow college, by Patrick Wilfon, M. A. (see Vol. I. of our Journal, page 443)—*A general theory for the mensuration of the angle subtended by two objects, &c.* by George Atwood, M. A. F. R. S.—*An account of the Ophidium barbatum Linnæi*, by P. M. Augustus Brouffonet, M. D.—*A further account of the usefulness of washing the stems of trees*, by Mr. Robert Marsham, of Stratton, F. R. S.—*Hints relating to the use which may be made of the tables of natural and logarithmic sines, tangents, &c. in the numerical resolution of adfected equations*, by William Wales, F. R. S.—*Account of a comet*, by Mr. Herschel, F. R. S.—*A letter from Mr. Joseph Willard, concerning the longitude of Cambridge in New England.*—*An account of some thermometrical experiments*, by Tiberius Cavallo, F. R. S.

II. *Memoires de L'Academie Imperiale et Royale des Sciences et Belles Lettres de Bruxelles*, i. e. *Memoirs of the Imperial and Royal Academy of Sciences and Belles Lettres of Bruffels*, 4to. Bruffels, Vol. I. 1778. Vols. II. and III. 1780.

THE Academy of sciences at Bruffels, founded in the year 1769, have already published
three

three volumes of their transactions. Each volume is divided into two parts, one of which under the head of *Journal des Seances*, exhibits a view of the business of each meeting, together with an analysis of such papers as have been read before the academy, and which they have not thought fit to publish at length. The second part of the volume is allotted to the Memoirs.

The FIRST of these three volumes affords us only two medical papers. One of these is *an account of the mineral waters of Saucvoir*, by the Abbé DE WITRY; the other is written by M. DE BEUNIE, physician at Antwerp, and contains *some observations on the disorder, which is sometimes occasioned by the eating of muscles*. The author ascribes it to a small sea insect, a species of *stella marina*, which sometimes lodges itself in the muscle, and whose spawn is so caustic, that even when applied outwardly to the skin, it produces itching and swellings that are in a high degree painful. The remedy prescribed in these cases by Dr. de Beunie is vinegar; and he recommends abstinence from these shell-fish during May, June, July, and August, the months in which the insect in question is generally to be met with.

We proceed now to the SECOND volume—

The

The first part or *Journal* contains an analysis of a *Memoir on the contagious disease of horned cattle*, by the Abbè NEEDHAM, director of the academy. This author divides the diseases of organized bodies into two classes, the first of which includes such as are inflammatory from an excess of vital power, and the second those which are putrid or gangrenous from a defect of that power. He ranks the contagious disease, which is the subject of his paper, among the latter, and in the treatment of it recommends antiseptics, and particularly common salt, as the most efficacious remedies.

In the second part of the volume we find a *Memoir on the pernicious effects of muscles*, by M. DU RONDEAU, which is intended as a supplement to Dr. de Beunie's paper on the same subject just now spoken of.

Three cases are related in the present Essay, which prove that muscles are as liable to produce dangerous effects in April, September, and October, as in either of the four months mentioned by M. de Beunie. M. du Rondeau is convinced that the boiling of muscles does not deprive them of their deleterious qualities. This fact, we believe, has long been pretty generally known. He next presents us with a view
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of the symptoms produced by the poison of these shell-fish, and of which, as it is related with great accuracy, we shall give a literal translation.

“ The signs which announce the noxious effects of boiled muscles, are an universal uneasiness or numbness, that commonly takes place three or four hours after they have been eaten. These symptoms are succeeded by a tightness of the throat, a sense of heat about the head and eyes, immoderate thirst, nausea and sometimes vomiting. If the patient has the good fortune to vomit up the whole of the venomous matter, this evacuation is generally sufficient to stop the progress of the complaint, but if he brings up none or only a part of the noxious substance, the disorder becomes more or less alarming, according to the quantity of deleterious matter in the first passages, and according to the particular constitution of the patient. The want of a sufficient evacuation by vomit encreases the tightness of the throat, and the swelling of the face, eyes, and tongue; all the parts within the mouth appear inflamed, and as it were excoriated, and the redness soon spreads to the outer surface, appearing first in the face, and extending from thence to the neck,

“ neck, breast, and abdomen, and by degrees
“ over the whole body.

“ This particular eruption is the symptom the
“ most distinguishing and characteristic of the
“ malignancy of muscles; it is constantly ac-
“ companied with a kind of delirium, with a
“ singular uneasiness, and an insupportable itch-
“ ing; it has no affinity with the eruption pro-
“ duced by the erysipelatous fever, with the
“ scarlatina, measles, *purpura urticata*, or any
“ other known species of red eruption: it has
“ these particularities, viz. that it never appears
“ unless muscles have been eaten; that it is not
“ preceded by fever; that it is accompanied by
“ symptoms which appear united in no other
“ disease; and lastly, that the whole surface of
“ the body, tho’ redder than in any other eruptive
“ disease, appears as it were spotted with an in-
“ finite number of red spots of a deeper red than
“ the rest of the skin. These points are infi-
“ nitely smaller than a millet seed; if we exa-
“ mine them through a lens, we see distinctly
“ that they are the openings or pores of the
“ cuticle, which leaves minute spots of the cutis
“ exposed to our view, while the redness which
“ is seen only through the epidermis, appears of
“ a paler hue.”

X Our author, as we have seen, supposes this eruption to be an effect peculiar to muscles, but in persons of a particular idiosyncrasy we have observed it brought on by salmon, Peruvian bark, and other substances.

The history we have transcribed is followed by an account of two anomalous cases; in one of which the patient was afflicted with violent spasms, without any attendant eruption. No medicines could be administered by the mouth, but relief was obtained by glysters. In the other the disease terminated in a gangrenous sore throat, from which the patient with difficulty recovered.

M. du Rondeau agrees with M. de Beunie with regard to the efficacy of vinegar given internally as an antidote to this poison. He has likewise experienced excellent effects from its external use. He assures us that by washing the whole surface of the body for about half an hour, with vinegar and water, he has seldom failed to remove the disagreeable itching that accompanies the eruption, and to bring on a sweat which has speedily terminated the complaint.

The paper concludes with an account of a pretty certain method of depriving muscles of their poisonous quality. It consists in washing them

them first with water and afterwards with vinegar previously to their being boiled in an earthen pot with vinegar and water, and a few grains of Jamaica pepper. Similar precautions are to be taken if the fish is dressed in its shell. This practice, we are told, has been adopted by upwards of an hundred families, and with the most uniform success.

At the end of the volume are extracts from two meteorological diaries kept at Brussells in 1775 and 1776.

The THIRD Volume contains *an account of the Medicinal Leech*, by M. DU RONDEAU, accompanied with an engraving. This insect, which our author informs us is not described by Linnæus, or any other writer, is composed of 105 cartilaginous rings covered by the cutis, and connected by strong thick muscles that are endued with singular irritability. Its mouth is oval (not triangular, as some writers assert) when it fixes itself to any substance, and quadrangular when the animal is at rest. The teeth, which are three in number, are rounded, white, cartilaginous, moveable at their basis by means of a ligament, and so situated that they serve to pinch the skin while it is drawn upwards

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by the suction of the mouth. Contiguous to each tooth is a sort of minute nipple, for so our author terms it, composed of an elastic spongy substance, and terminating in a membranous canal furnished with a valve. This canal leads to the stomach, which is a large muscular bag, communicating with the intestinal canal. The latter, begins about the 22d or 23d ring, and extends along the two sides of the insect to the anus, forming twelve bags on each side, and is furnished with an infinite number of valves which prevent the return of the food towards the stomach.

This insect is an hermaphrodite. Its uterus, which is shaped like a pear, is situated immediately under the stomach, and the neck of it terminates in a membranous canal, which opens externally between the 24th and 25th ring. A seminal duct from each of the two *vesiculæ seminales* likewise opens into the same canal, the mouth of which is furnished with a ring formed by the skin. A little under this ring is situated the heart, which is a fleshy bag of a conical but irregular shape, and furnished at its basis with an appendage which seems intended for an auricle. The heart is attached to the back by means of the large vessels.

Our

Our author has not been able to discover any organs of vision or hearing in this insect. It is likewise destitute of lungs; and he has found by experiments that its life can be supported in oil, or under an exhausted receiver, as well as in water or the open air. He has observed, however, that although it is capable of living for a long time without air and without food, yet that it cannot take the latter *in vacuo*, for on placing four leeches and some fresh blood under the receiver, they immediately began to suck the blood, but quitted it as soon as the air was exhausted. This experiment was repeated several times.

This volume likewise contains; 1. *an Essay on the poisonous quality of lead*, by M. DE BEUNIE, which though judiciously written affords us no new observations on the subject; 2. *an Essay*, by Abbè MARCI, *on the best means of tinning vessels for culinary uses*, in which he recommends block-tin for this purpose; 3. *an historical and physical essay on the orichalcum of the ancients; preceded by some observations on the lapis ærosus of Pliny*, by M. DE LAUNAY. The author's views in this paper are to prove that the orichalcum was not, as some have supposed, a metal which is no longer known to us, but a composition of copper and zinc, similar to our brass and
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Pinchbeck; and that Pliny has fallen into an error in giving the name of *lapis ærosus* to lapis calaminaris upon a supposition of its being a copper ore. Much erudition is displayed in these enquiries. 4. *Results of meteorological observations made in the year 1770 at Franeker in Friesland*, by M. VAN SWINDEN, professor of philosophy, &c. 5. *Extraits from three meteorological diaries kept at Brussels in 1777, 1778, and 1779.*

III. *Kongl. Vetenskaps Academiens Handlingar för År. 1778, i. e. Memoirs of the Royal Academy of Sciences of Sweden for the year 1778.* 8vo. Stockholm.

I. **O**BSERVATIONS on the climate of Sweden with regard to heat and cold, by Peter Wargentin, Secretary to the Academy, &c. This paper is the result of twenty years observations, and is intended as a supplement to a former paper on the same subject, which our author communicated to the Academy twenty years ago. The two papers include a series of 39 years. The observations were made with Celsius's thermometer, which is but little known out of Sweden; in

in quoting them we shall therefore reduce them to Fahrenheit's scale, which we could wish to see universally adopted by all the learned in Europe, as the different thermometers of de Lisle, de Reaumur, &c. which are at present in use in different countries, serve only to confuse the philosophical reader.

It seems that in Sweden the weather is not considered as cold till the mercury has fallen five degrees below 0. In the course of 39 years the coldest day was the 7th of January 1760, when the thermometer sunk 20 degrees below 0.

In the summer of 1775, which was remarkable for its warmth, the mercury rose 41 times to 75° , and 9 times to 87° .

Our author observes that the changes in the temperature of the atmosphere are very sudden. The mean height of the thermometer in Sweden is said to be about 42° .

II. *An account of the Bezoar generated in the stomach of horses in Japan, by C. P. Thunberg, M. D.*—This substance, which when broken, appears to be composed of different strata, without any nucleus, is met with of different sizes. The physician to the emperor of Japan made a present to our author of one which weighed two pounds and six ounces.

III.

III. *An account of four cases of hydrocele cured by caustic*, by Sir Olaus Acrel, Knt. M. D. &c.

This paper is communicated to the academy by Dr. Gahn, who has added a fifth case of the same kind from his own observation, together with some general remarks on the treatment of hydroceles, in which he gives the preference to a small caustic applied after Mr. Else's method.

IV. *A remarkable case*, by A. Sparrman, M. D.

—We have here an account of a patient, who after taking Madame Nouffer's remedy (the fern root) for a supposed tænia, voided a considerable quantity of *nymphae* of the *musca meteorica*. Our author supposes that the eggs of these insects were brought into the body through the anus, in the same manner as those of the *æstrus hæmorrhoidalis* are known to be introduced into the intestinal canal of horses.

V. *A case of Catalepsy*, by M. Hiontzberg.—

The subject of this case was a man of a melancholic temperament, and the disease was accompanied with a locked jaw; clysters, venæsections, warm bathing, sinapisms, and a variety of other remedies were prescribed, and on the fourth day the patient began to recover the faculty of swallowing. A dose of *sal amarus* was then exhibited,
and

and the patient had several foetid mucous stools which seemed to hasten his recovery.

The same writer communicates an account of an ossification in the cavity of the aorta near the left ventricle of the heart, which produced violent palpitation and difficulty of breathing.

VI. *Case of a woman who was bit by a viper*, by M. Hofberg.—The patient was bit in the arm, and the symptoms excited were a swelling of the limb, heat, shivering, sickness at the stomach, anxiety, and difficulty of breathing. Our author, who was called to her half an hour after the accident, directed the whole arm to be frequently bathed with olive oil, and a table spoonful of the same oil to be given internally, at first, every half hour, and afterwards every hour, till she vomited. On the second day the patient sweated profusely, and the swelling and other symptoms disappeared. The author informs us that the efficacy of olive oil has been repeatedly experienced in Sweden, as an antidote to the poison of the viper.

Sir Olaus Acrel has added some remarks by way of supplement to this paper. He recommends, in cases of this sort, a treatment similar to that which has been of late advised against the bite of a mad dog, and which consists in pro-

moting a discharge from the wound by means of cantharides, mezereum, or some other irritating substance. Two cases are quoted as proofs of the efficacy of this practice.

X VII. *Of the efficacy of arsenic in cancers, by Mr. Ronnou.*—This writer assures us that in the course of fifty years, during which he has administered this remedy, he has cured twenty cancerous patients; and he goes so far as to contend that arsenic is as specific in cases of this kind as mercury is in syphilis. He gives it internally in solution, in very small doses, after the manner of Le Febre, and in cases of open cancer applies it at the same time externally to the ulcer. He observes, that many years ago at Paris, he saw M. St. Yves cure small cancers of the eyelids by a water composed of elder flower water, quick-lime, and white arsenic.

VIII. *An account of a singular tumour of the head, by M. Taxe.*—This tumour was on the right side of the forehead of a girl four years old. It was large, attended with pulsation, and when pressed occasioned *tinnitus aurium* and drowsiness. Our author supposes it to have been a *kernia cerebri*. The paper is accompanied with an engraving of the tumour, and some remarks are added to it by professor Martin, which are intended

tended to prove that injuries done to the os frontis are less fatal than when they happen to other parts of the head.

IX. *Case of a gun-shot wound, by J. L. Odhelius, M. D.*—In this case the wound was inflicted over the left eye-brow. The part healed, and the patient seemed to be doing well, when he was suddenly seized with convulsions and stupor, which ended in death. On dissection part of a bullet was found lying on the integuments of the brain.

X. *An account of some statical experiments, by R. Martin, M. D. &c.*—The author himself was the subject of these experiments. He has found that the effect of opium is first to lessen the sensible heat of the body, and afterwards to promote perspiration.

XI. *Case of a patient who had a cataract in each eye, by J. L. Odhelius, M. D.*—In this case both pupils were entirely contracted, so that the author was obliged to make an artificial pupil, through which he extracted the diseased lens. Sir O. Acrel, in another paper on the same subject, advises us in cases of this kind, where it is necessary to make an artificial pupil, to divide the longitudinal fibres of the iris transversely.

The other papers contained in this volume are

a description of the *Hudsonia ericoides* LINN. by professor Bergius;—A description of the *Erica Sparmanni* (an African shrub so named in honour of its discoverer) by professor Linnæus;—Remarks on the effects of cold on certain trees and plants; on the degrees of heat at which many plants flowered in Sweden in 1777; a description of the *musca pumilionis*; of the means of destroying the worm which is so destructive to rye; and observations on the damage done by the *phalæna tritici* to oats, wheat, and rye, in five separate papers, by Mr. Bierkander;—an account of the preparation of *mercurius dulcis via humida* (see vol. II. of our Journal, p. 53); a new method of preparing the *pulvis algerothi* (of this we mean to speak more fully in a future number); an account of a new green colour (see our second vol. page 132); experiments with black lead (which prove that it consists of a peculiar acid, different from all other acids, and which for this reason the author names *acidum molybdæne*) all these by Mr. Scheele;—a dissertation on the genus of *Yerbua*, and particularly of the *Yerbua Capensis*, by J. R. Forster, L.L.D. &c;—a description of the *Sturnus Dauricus* and *Alauda Mongoliensis*, by professor Pallas;—an account of the properties and use of the hickey

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or American walnut-tree, by professor Kalm;—experiments relative to the presence of zinc in iron ore, by Mr. Hielm;—a description of two ores of zinc, by Mr. Brumich;—additions to the natural history of the rhinoceros, and hippopotamus, by A. Sparrman, M. D.

IV. *Histoire de la Societé Royale de Medecine. Année 1776. Avec les Memoires de Medecine et de Physique Medicale pour la meme Année, tirés des Registres de cette Societé, i. e. History of the Royal Medical Society for the year 1776; with the memoirs relative to Physic and Medical Philosophy for the same year, taken from the Registers of the Society.* 4to. Paris, 1779. 592 pages, with 16 copper-plates.

THE establishment of a society which is intended to unite physicians of every country in Europe in one general correspondence, will reflect honour on the reign of Louis XVI. This new institution is formed on the most liberal basis, and its views extend to every subject which can in any manner tend to the improvement of medical science.

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The volume before us, the first the Society have published, is divided into two parts, one of which is allotted to the history, the other to the memoirs. The former of these contains an account of the institution, of the public meetings, prizes proposed and adjudged, a list of the members, eulogies of deceased associates, some account of the works published in 1776 by the different members, and such observations as are given only in the form of extract. The second part, or memoirs, consists of such essays as the Society have thought fit to print at full length.

The preface, which extends through forty pages, contains many judicious remarks concerning the plan of the work, with some excellent directions relative to the making of meteorological observations for medical purposes, the analysis of mineral waters, and the manner of describing the medical topography of different places, with regard to their climate, situation, diseases, &c. Some rules are likewise laid down for the description of diseases.

The eulogies of deceased members are three in number. The first is in honour of JOHN BOUILLET, M. D. secretary to the academy at Beziers. He was born at Servian in the neighbourhood of Beziers, March 6, 1690, and died
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in his 84th year, August 13th, 1777, leaving two sons and three daughters. The work which gained him the most reputation was his *Elemens de Medecine pratique*, in two vols. the first of which was published in 1744. He was likewise the author of several articles in the 6th volume of the *Encyclopedie*, and of some astronomical observations in the *Memoires des Savans etrangers*. It is remarked of him that he had eleven brothers or sisters, of whom nine died after attaining their 80th year, and two survive him; of the latter, one is 84, and the other 94 years old.

The second eulogy is that of JOHN FRANÇOIS LE BEAU, M. D. born at Pont-Beauvoisin in 1721, and educated at Paris and Montpellier, at the latter of which places he graduated in 1747. The year following he was appointed physician to the garrison at Quebec, where he remained till that place was taken by the English. In 1761 he was sent to Louisiana to collect specimens of natural history for the king's museum; and in this business acquitted himself much to the satisfaction of M. Bernard de Jussieu. He returned to France in 1774, and the next year was appointed physician to the naval hospital at Brest, and died there of a contagious fever, April 28, 1777.

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The subject of the third eulogy is the celebrated M. DE HALLER, of whom we have already given some anecdotes in our 2d volume.

Medical Topography.—This article relates solely to Bourdeaux and other places in the province of Guienne.

Epidemics.—Under this head we are presented with, 1. *Some account of epidemic catarrhs*, by Dr. Perkins, physician at Boston, and written at the request of Dr. Franklin. The author first describes an epidemic of this sort which appeared in North America in October 1731, and the following month was observed in Russia and Saxony, from whence it spread through Holland, Scotland, England, and Ireland. It prevailed at Paris towards the end of January 1732, and in March was rife at Naples. A good account of this disease is given by Huxham. Dr. Perkins afterwards speaks in a general way of similar epidemics as they occurred in 1745, 1750, 1751, 1753, 1765, 1767, and 1768.—2. *An account of an epidemic which has prevailed for several years (1777) during the autumn, at Villeneuve-les-Avignon.*—The disease here described is a remittent fever which owes its source to the marshes in the neighbourhood. It seems that the Rhone, on the banks of which Villeneuve is situated, has within

within these few years shifted its bed, leaving a considerable tract of swampy ground. Previous to this change in the course of the river the town was healthy.—3. *Remarks on a species of epilepsy occasioned by an exanthematic miliary virus.*—These observations are extracted from the correspondence of M. Barailon, physician at Châmbon in Bourbonnois, who having observed that Epilepsy is become a frequent disease there since the year 1774, when a miliary fever prevailed in that neighbourhood, considers it as the effect of what he styles a miliary virus. Some cases are related of patients who were cured of their epilepsy by a miliary eruption.

Diseases of animals.—This article contains, 1. *An Account* (communicated by the academy at Dijon) *of the disorder which prevailed among the horned cattle at Gessy sur Onche in Burgundy in 1771 and 1772, and which seemed to be a species of inflammatory fever.*—2. *Some remarks,* by M. Adam, physician at Caen, *on a disorder which destroyed the fishes in the river Dives in Normandy.*—3. *Observations on the farcy,* by M. Ialouset, physician at Chatillon sur Soing.

Practice of physic.—The first article under this head relates to *schirrus of the Pylorus*, and is written by M. Andry. Several instances are re-

lated of this disease, which we are told is very frequent among the lower sort of people, who drink a great deal of brandy. In the treatment of this complaint remedies of every kind have hitherto proved ineffectual.—2. *Case of an obstruction of the Pylorus*, by M. Jeanroi. The subject of this case was a lady, fifty years of age, who died in 1775, after having been for a long time subject to incessant vomiting, acute pains about the stomach, and diarrhœa. On dissection the pylorus was found so contracted as hardly to admit a common probe, and its coats were half an inch in thickness. The omentum, mesentery, liver, spleen, and pancreas were full of tubercles. The thoracic viscera were in a sound state.—3. *Case of a contraction of the intestines*, by M. de Lalouette.—The patient whose case is here related was about fifty years old, and had long been addicted to drinking wine and spirituous liquors. During the last six months of his life he complained of dull pains in his bowels, obstinate costiveness, and latterly of an incessant vomiting of a dark coloured pultaceous matter: his body was opened after death. The stomach was found preternaturally dilated at its great curvature, the smaller curvature being kept in its ordinary state by a band of schirrous

schirrous cellular membrane of the breadth of a finger. The pancreas, which adhered to the stomach by means of this band, was likewise in a schirrous state. The spleen was uncommonly small; the liver in its natural state, but the gall bladder was unusually bulky, being distended by a great deal of very viscid bile. The pylorus, duodenum, and jejunum were in a sound state; some slight constrictions were observed in the ileum; the cæcum was extraordinarily dilated, but the colon abounded with strictures, so that in some places the canal would hardly admit a small writing pen.—4. *Case of apoplexy in a female patient, soon after delivery*; by M. Coquerau.—5. *Case of a dropsy cured by the use of milk*; communicated by Abbé Tessier.—This account was drawn up by the patient herself the Marchioness de Grouchy. This lady, at the age of thirty-five years, began to void her urine in small quantity, and to have symptoms of anasarca and ascites. Diuretics, cream of tartar, Bacher's pills, and other remedies were administered, but without success. At length fourteen quarts of water were drawn off by tapping, and after undergoing this operation she had recourse to some quack medicine, but without finding relief from it. The dropical symptoms conti-

nued without any abatement from August 1776 till January 1777, when to the original complaints were added an incessant cough, and bloody stools. In this state the patient happening to drink a little milk in order to allay her cough, and finding that it agreed with her, determined to take nothing else either as food or medicine. She had not continued long in this resolution before her urine, which for many months had been loaded, and in small quantity, became clear and copious. Her menses which had stopt for six months returned again, and by degrees she recovered her health. It is added that she still finds it necessary to adhere to the same regimen, since whenever she happens to deviate from it her urine becomes less abundant.—6. *A case of ascites complicated with anasarca cured by the use of sorrel boiled in milk*; by M. Favrol, physician at Nozeroy in Franche Comté. The subject of this case was a man 68 years old, whose dropfical symptoms had resisted different remedies. His legs and abdomen were prodigiously swelled; his urine very high coloured, and in small quantity. Laying aside the use of medicines he had recourse to milk; boiling a handful of sorrel leaves in each pint of it. This and some bad bread constituted the whole of his diet for three months, and at the

the end of that time he found himself perfectly recovered, his thirst having abated, and his urine begun to flow more copiously a few days after he entered on his milk diet.—7. *Observations on Madam Nouffer's remedy against the Tænia*; by M. Renaud, physician to the hospital at Barjac. This physician has long been in the habit of administering the fern root in cases of tænia, but in a manner somewhat different from that practised by Madam Nouffer, and which has succeeded we are told in several cases where her's has failed. It consists in the use of a clyster every night, composed of two drachms of soap dissolved in a pint of water. The next morning the patient is to swallow two drachms of fern root in powder. These remedies are to be repeated every day for five days, and then the patient is to take a purgative bolus composed of calomel, jalap, and rhubarb.—8. *Case of an abscess in the oesophagus*; by the late M. Macquart. We have here an account of a young lady 19 years old, who after being troubled for about three months with a spasmodic cough began to have a difficulty of swallowing, which increased so fast that after a very short time she became incapable of taking any nourishment by the mouth, so that for the space of three months

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life was supported solely by clysters. Mercurial and other frictions were employed, but without effect. At length M. Macquart reflecting on the case, and conjecturing that an encysted tumour existed in the oesophagus, and that it might probably be now in a state of suppuration, he resolved to administer some substance which by its weight might occasion a rupture of the sac. For this purpose he prescribed an ounce of crude mercury, mixed with the yolk of eggs, to be swallowed every three hours. This remedy was taken, and the patient soon after she had swallowed the second dose brought up a considerable quantity of pus. From that moment she was able to swallow broth, and by proper care recovered.—9. *An instance of the virtues of the*

X *loadstone*; by M. Thouret. The patient whose case is here related had been for eight or nine years subject to a painful affection of one side of his face, which extended to the eye on the same side, and from thence to the temple, and sometimes to the upper part of his head. This pain which returned frequently, and with great violence, having been attributed to carious teeth, he suffered several of his teeth to be drawn, but without the desired effect. Several external applications were employed with the same ill success.

cess. At length he was advised to try the use of the loadstone. The very first trial relieved him instantly, as it were by enchantment, and ever since that time he has his magnet constantly in his hand, allaying and dispelling the pain the moment it begins to return, by which means he has rendered his life comfortable. The loadstone he makes use of is an artificial one that is capable of supporting a weight of six pounds, but he means to procure one that possesses twice that power. He observes that the moment the loadstone is applied to the seat of the pain he experiences a singular sensation in the skin of that part, and a sort of numbness is instantly excited, but that no such effects are produced when the loadstone is applied to a part that is free from pain.—

10. *Remarks on the virtue of Hoffmann's liquor anodynus in the treatment of intermittent fevers;* by M. Desbois, physician at Rochefort.—This remedy is recommended in a dose of fifteen or twenty drops, to be given about an hour before the fit.—11. *An account of a suppression of urine occasioned by a retention of the menses in the vagina;* by M. Magnan, physician at Marseilles. The girl whose case is here related was 22 years old when M. Magnan first saw her. She had then never menstruated, but had been long subject to
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a periodical colic every month; at length her pains became more constant, especially about the loins and pubis, and she complained of a suppression of urine. Upon examination the vagina was found to be closed by a thick membrane which seemed to be forced strongly towards the *os externum*. A crucial incision being made through this membrane, about two pounds of dark blood were discharged, and the patient recovered.—12. M. Poissonnier des Perrieres communicates an account he has received from Bourdeaux, relative to the case of a M. Herault, an advocate at Blaye, who, five years ago, having had a dangerous fever, lost the hair from every part of his body, and has lately recovered it again after another fever of the same kind.—13. Dr. Strack, of Mayence, in a letter to the Society, advises the use of a Saturnine Collyrium when the small pox is epidemic. It is to be applied previous to the variolous eruption. He asserts that this preventative method has been the means of preserving the eyes of several persons who have had a very confluent small pox.—14. M. Durande, physician at Dijon, we are told, has confirmed the efficacy of a mixture of æther and spirit of turpentine as a solvent of biliary concretions.

[*To be continued.*]

V. *Traité sur divers accouchemens laborieux, et sur les polypes de la matrice; ouvrage dans lequel on trouve la description d'un nouveau levier, imité de celui de Roonbuysen, et mis en parallele avec le forceps; ainsi que d'un nouvel instrument, propre à la ligature des polypes, approuvé par l'Academie Royale de Chirurgie de Paris. Par M. G. Herbiniaux, Chirurgien accoucheur et Lithotomiste, à Bruxelles. i. e. A treatise on different laborious deliveries and on Polypi of the Uterus; with a description of a new lever, constructed on the plan of Roonbuysen's, and compared with the forceps; and likewise of a new instrument for the ligature of Polypi, approved by the Royal Academy of Surgery at Paris. By G. Herbiniaux, Surgeon Man-midwife and Lithotomist at Brussells. 8vo. Brussells 1782. Vol. I. 430 pages with 3 copper-plates. Vol. II. 192 pages, with 1 copper-plate.*

THE celebrated invention of Roonhuysen to assist the delivery of the foetus when the head is detained at the brim of the pelvis, which was so profitable to the inventor, and to those who immediately participated of the secret from him or his successors for near a century, seemed to lose all its reputation, except in Hol-

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land, as soon as a description of it was communicated to the world by doctors Vischer and Van de Poll. These two physicians, who practised at Amsterdam, purchased the secret of the heirs of John de Bruyn, a surgeon of that city, for a sum equal to about 200 l. sterling, and published it in the year 1753, together with some papers of de Bruyn's describing the manner of using it.

Whether the coolness with which this discovery was received by the public, was owing to the extreme simplicity of the instrument which consisted of a single piece of iron, a little curved at each end, or to the eagerness with which the most celebrated professors of midwifery were engaged in bringing to perfection the forceps, which had been invented about the same time as the lever, and for the same purpose, is not easy to determine. It is certain, however, that the critique which M. Levret published on this instrument contributed not a little to prevent it from being adopted in France, and it is probable that the silence of Dr. Smellie on this subject had a similar effect in this country.

Professor Camper in a late publication (*Mem. de l'Acad. de Chirurgie*, tom. V.) has attempted to revive the credit of this instrument, but since
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the appearance of his essay several works have been printed in France by messieurs Deleurye, Hoin, Baudelocque, and other pupils of the late M. Levret, in which the merit of the lever is not only placed far below that of the forceps, but the mischiefs produced by the former seem to be exaggerated. The author of the work before us has undertaken to reply to the strictures of those writers. The whole of his first volume is employed on the lever.

After premising a short history of the instrument, he begins with combating the criticisms of M. Levret, which he ascribes to motives of jealousy. “I was not the only one—says M. Herliniaux—who discovered the source of M. Levret’s censures; many of the pupils who attended his lectures with me at the time the description of the lever was published, observed the effect it had upon that gentleman, whose forceps had just begun to open to him the way to fortune.” After giving a long extract from M. Levret’s *Suite des observations sur les accouchemens laborieux*, our author attempts to prove that Mr. L. was unacquainted with the true dimensions and figure of the instrument, as well as with the manner of using it.

We are next presented with the whole of Dr.

Camper's paper on this subject from the memoirs of the academy of surgery, accompanied with a critique to prove that the learned professor was unacquainted with the manner of applying the instrument. This is also confirmed by a letter from M. Titling (upon whose authority Dr. Camper had founded his relation of the manual) to our author: "I was very much
 "astonished—says M. Titling—to find this celebrated physician of opinion that the instrument, when operating, is placed along the
 "side of the head, over the ear of the child,
 "with its point resting upon the chin; and my
 "surprize was still greater to see this spoken of
 "as my manner of using it, for I had always
 "found my instrument placed obliquely upon
 "the head, with its extremity fixed near the
 "mastoid process of the occipital bone." But although M. Titling detects Dr. Camper's error in the manual of the lever, he does not contradict his account of the success attending the use of it.

Messieurs Deleurye, Hoin, and Baudelocque have fallen into nearly the same mistakes as Dr. Camper in the manual of the instrument, and were besides unacquainted with the true dimensions and figure of that used by the Dutch accoucheurs,

coucheurs, for which they are severely censured by our author.

M. Herbiniaux claims the merit not only of being the first person who discovered the intention of Roonhuysen in making two curves, one larger than the other, to his instrument, but likewise that of having ascertained the method of fixing the band which was observed round one of the ends of it when purchased of the heirs of de Bruyn. The description of the instrument, as improved by himself, with directions for applying it, and some observations on the causes of laborious births, conclude the volume.

The lever of Roonhuysen is described as a piece of iron $10\frac{1}{4}$ inches long, one inch broad, and about $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch thick. This iron is strait in the middle for about four inches, but curved at each end; the curve at one extremity being an inch longer than the other. The longest curve is five-tenths of an inch deep, the shortest only one. The edges are polished and rounded, but particularly at its extremities, which at the time of using the instrument were commonly covered with a plaster. A strong cord was fixed to the
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end that was made use of, where the curve commenced.

Although it had been observed that the curves at the two extremities were of different sizes, M. Herbiniaux was the first who after a variety of experiments found out the utility of this difference, and that it was essential to the perfection of the instrument, the larger curve being applicable only where the whole of the basis of the skull is above the brim of the Pelvis. The want of attending to this distinction has been the cause, he thinks, of the little success the French accoucheurs have had in using the instrument, and the consequent contempt it has fallen into among them. They have usually made it with a single curve, and have adopted as their model, the largest, which they have also increased : this, our author contends, destroys its property as a lever, and brings it to the state of a blunt crotchet.

M. Levret was the first who suggested the use of the cord fixed to the beginning of the curve, in order to draw downward with one hand, while with the other the handle of the instrument was carried upwards towards the belly of the mother : by this means not only the lever was prevented from slipping off the head of the fœtus,

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but the pressure upon the *symphysis Pubis*, where it turns as upon an axis, was moderated.

This mechanism M. Herbiniaux has improved by making that part of the lever stronger, so as to admit of a hole for the string to pass through, by which means the cord, which is placed nearly under the arch of the Pubis, is prevented from galling the Vagina.

There are other alterations or amendments made by M. Herbiniaux in the instrument, which although not essential, contribute, he thinks, somewhat to the success of the operation. His lever is made of silver, which he observes appears less terrible to the woman than one of iron. The inner surface of the curves is lined with unpolished iron, which is less likely to slip from the head of the child than silver. For the sake of rendering it more portable, it is divided into parts which screw together when used, one of the curves only being mounted at one time. The handle is made round that it may be more easily held, and hollow to contain a syringe, by means of which the child may be baptized when that ceremony is thought necessary. The latter will not be considered as a very material improvement in this country.—

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In the work itself the description is illustrated by accurate engravings.

In making use of the lever, we are directed first to introduce a hand, or as much of it as we can into the vagina to discover the situation of the head. If the face is found turned a little obliquely to one side of the Pelvis, which is the most usual situation, it is then, we are told, in the most favourable posture for the application of the lever. Two fingers are now to be introduced between the symphysis of the Pubis and the head of the child, or as near that part as may be, and one of the curved ends of the instrument is then to be insinuated under the fingers, with its concave surface turned to the child, and moved a little backwards and forwards till its extremity meets with a proper degree of resistance, which it will do as soon as it approaches the mastoid process of the occipital bone. The instrument being thus fixed we are to wait till a slight pain commences, and then the handle of the lever is to be carried upwards towards the belly of the mother with the right hand, while with the left the cord is to be pulled downwards towards the anus. By this means the labour is said to be frequently terminated in a few minutes. Sometimes, however, this operation

ration must be repeated at intervals for half an hour. When the obstacle to the delivery is by this means removed, and the head of the foetus descends and begins to dilate the external parts, the instrument is to be taken away, and we are carefully to guard the Perinæum to prevent laceration.

If the face of the child is turned to the Pubis, it is to be first pushed aside as much as possible, and as soon as by the operation of the lever the head begins to descend, it will, we are assured, naturally fall into its proper situation.

In cases where the basis of the scull is entirely above the brim of the Pelvis, the large curve is to be used; and the small one when it has passed that strait.

Among other causes of laborious births our author mentions the oblique situation of the uterus. This idea which was first suggested by Daventer, has been so often and so ably refuted by succeeding writers that we shall not detain our readers upon the subject; and the rather as M. Herbiniaux has brought no new argument in support of his doctrine.

Towards the end of the volume we meet with several cases selected from a great number in which the author has employed the lever. In

these, as well as in the other parts of his work he displays considerable knowledge of his subject, as well as zeal for the cause he has undertaken to defend. But after all it may be doubted whether the practitioners who have been instructed in the use of the forceps will be induced to relinquish them in favour of the lever. Both of the instruments are doubtless in some few cases useful; but either of them will require more practice, to become expert in handling them than almost any one will obtain, who does not frequently have recourse to them unnecessarily. Of the two however, the manual of the lever is certainly the most simple.

In our next number we mean to give an account of the second volume of this work, in which this author treats of the uterine polypus.

B.

VI. *A Treatise on the Medical Properties of Mercury.* By John Howard, Surgeon. 8vo. Longman, London, 1782, 120 pages. 3s.

THE author of this essay is a zealous advocate for salivation in the treatment of the *Lues Venerea*. The merits of this method are discussed in the first of the two sections into which

which the work is divided. Mr. Howard is of opinion that mercury in order to cure the disease in question must necessarily produce “ a melting down, attenuation, or singular species of putrefaction of the animal fluids ;” that these are to be considered as its decisive antivenereal effects ; that the single hinge on which success turns in every case, no matter by what method it be treated, is the change which takes place in the system at the approach of and during salivation ; that the more violent this affection, *cæteris paribus*, the greater will be the antivenereal power of the remedy ; that although this power is certainly in some instances to be obtained, even under the closest confinement, without a ptyalism, or at least with so trifling an affection of the mouth as not to deserve the name of salivation, yet that this can be no argument against the great utility of the method under confinement, nor against the propriety of affecting the mouth, as it only shews that the internal and most essential effects of the medicine may, and sometimes do follow without any external mark or symptom, strongly denoting the operation of the medicine as a powerful evacuant.—These are principles which we cannot adopt, nor can we be brought to believe, that in order to cure a

man of the venereal disease it is necessary to excite a general state of putridity, so that the blood shall appear broken in its texture, and the urine become of a dark brown colour, depositing a sediment like dirt: and yet these are parts of the picture which our author has given us of the effects of mercury administered under confinement so as to salivate.

In support of his doctrine on this subject he quotes the writings and practice of Sydenham; admirers as we are, however, of that truly great man in many other instances, we cannot allow his authority to have any weight in the present.

As an argument in favour of the use of mercury under confinement, our author observes that throughout the whole process of salivation, even at the period when the fœtor and prostration of strength, &c. are at the height, there are latent symptoms of strength generated by the stimulus of the remedy, combined with but kept under by those of putrefaction; and which do not indeed then appear, but which immediately shew themselves on the subsidence of the flux. Hence it is, he thinks, that although a man after salivation comes out from his confinement much thinner than he was before, yet he looks well and has an uncommon propensity to acquire

quire speedily his former health and spirits; the quick depletion of his vessels being followed by as sudden a repletion, so that he generally becomes fatter than he was before.—That such an effect as this may and sometimes does happen after a first salivation in a young man of strong healthy *stamina*, we have no doubt; but we apprehend that the cause of it ought to be sought for in the firmness of the patient's constitution rather than in any stimulating or invigorating property of mercury. If this remedy really possessed such a power successive salivations would bring with them fresh accessions of strength to the vital powers; but the fact is, at least so far as we can collect from our own observations on the subject, that every repetition of the salivating process brings on an increased degree of debility.

In a succeeding part of the work we find the author very properly cautioning practitioners against the ill consequences which may arise from a too liberal use of mercury, or from too violent salivation. Accidents of this sort, we are told, are most likely to happen in very irritable or inflammable habits.

In the second section Mr. Howard treats of the alterative method. The leading principles laid down

down by him when speaking of salivation he considers as applicable to this other mode of treatment. The great discriminating circumstances which he points out are exercise and exposure to the open air; under a regimen somewhat less stimulating and nutritious than in the ordinary habits of living.

The alterative course recommended by Mr. Howard differs not materially from that which is in general use. If the cure is begun with frictions, he seldom uses a larger quantity for the first fortnight or three weeks than ʒss. of *Ung. Mercur. fort.* every night. If the patient objects to frictions, he administers small doses of *Mercur. Crud. cum Bals. Sulph. ext.* internally. Care is taken to obviate any tendency to a purging by means of opiates, and in the cure by frictions when costiveness supervenes, and there appears to be no danger of a sore mouth, he recommends an internal mercurial, either *Mercur. Calcin.* or *Calomel*, if they sit easy, if not, the preparation of crude mercury just now mentioned.

He observes that in the Idiosyncrasy which is with difficulty affected by mercury, if we mean to raise what he supposes to be its proper anti-venereal effect, the doses must be frequently as large as when the medicine is used under confinement.

finement. In such habits he sometimes thinks it necessary to apply *Mercur. alcaliz.* by throwing it dry from a paper into the throat, and suddenly washing it down with water. A cinnabar fumigation to the throat, unless there are spreading ulcerations on this part, he considers as having too powerful an effect on the salivary glands to be trusted to.

Practitioners, who think as we do, that a soreness of the mouth is by no means essential to the cure of the lues venerea, will be equally disposed to doubt the utility of a local stimulus applied with a view to hasten an affection of the salivary glands.

Mr. Howard allows that an alterative course, properly conducted, may with great propriety and general success, be applied to most of the primary, and to many of the secondary symptoms of the lues venerea; and that in the idiosyncrasy, too prone to salivation, it may be adopted perhaps in preference to the method under confinement. On the other hand he contends that there are cases in which it will prove ineffectual and even injurious. It is injudicious, he observes, to trust to it when a symptom is to be treated which is proceeding with great rapidity; and it will be ineffectual, he thinks, when the
power

power of habit and idiosyncrasy of the patient so far predominate, that no quantity of mercury, however large, can be made to produce what he terms the proper putrefactive consequences. He objects to it likewise in weak habits where there is a constitutional propensity to Phthisis pulmonalis, upon a supposition that in a tedious alterative course a strong action, not of the acute but of the chronic kind, is excited and kept up in the vessels, and of course is more pernicious than salivation.

The work closes with some remarks on the abuse of topical applications or *sedatives* in venereal complaints. Under this head he ranks not only vitriolic and saturnine preparations, but likewise mercurial and caustic medicaments, all of which he observes have a tendency to check and even cure a venereal sore, although the disease of which this sore is a symptom remains unsubdued in the habit. He objects to the cure of a chancre in any case by caustic, and contends that chancre, chancreous excoriation, and venereal bubo, though apparently local affections only, are yet symptoms of a general disease which exists in the habit from the moment of infection.

VII. *De Morbis quibusdam Commentarii, auctore*
 Clifton Wintringham, *Baronetto, M. D. Colleg.*
Medic. Londinens. et Parisiens. Socio, Societatis
Regiæ Sodali, et Medico Regio. 8vo, Cadell,
 London, 1782, 220 pages. 4s.

THIS work, which is offered to the public as the result of forty years experience in military hospitals and in London, consists of 419 aphorisms, to which the author has thought fit to give the name of *Commentarii*.

The following quotation may serve as a specimen of his manner :

90. “ Qui semel morbo attonito correptus sit, et postea fiat vertigini obnoxius, novos insultus expectare debet.

91. Qui a paralyfi liberantur, punctiones quasi aciculis, uno alterove die in parte affectâ sentiunt, priusquam ad sanitatem perveniant.

92. Exercitationes vehementiores statim post assumptum cibum articulorum morbos gignunt.

93. Si liber sanguinis aut humorum cursus per partem aliquam corporis humani adeo impediatur, ut ex hac causâ aut vires vitales aut animales aut naturales lesæ et oppressæ fiant, neque proprio suo munere fungi queant, cavendum est ne balnei quilibet usus tentetur.

94. Quibus fit pulsus arteriarum debilis, aut quibus in visceribus inhæreant ulcera, hic valdè periculosa sunt balnea.

95. Dolores posteriorem capitis partem aut verticem occupantes, plerumque affectioni hystericæ indolis tribuendi sunt.

96. Aquæ minerales morbis febre comitatis exhibendæ non sunt."

The theory displayed in this work is such as might be expected from a disciple of the Boerhaavian school, and accordingly we read much of *pituita*, *gluten*, acid and alkaline acrimony, and obstruction as causes of disease. The methods of cure are very often such as we cannot readily adopt. In the Hydrophobia, for instance, which is now pretty generally considered as a spasmodic disease, the only remedies prescribed are fomentations to the *præcordia*, clysters, a bolus of nitre and spermaceti every two or three hours, and repeated bleeding *ad deliquium*. Si autem—says the author—ad tertium usque diem obtineat malum, insanabile, plerumque erit; tentari tamen potest curatio iisdem pergendo, et repetendo sanguinis missionem ex arteriâ, admotis eodem tempore vesicatoriis, si vacillare videatur pulsus."

The custom of drawing the breasts of lying-in women,

women, as well as that of applying spirituous embrocations, or plaisters with the view of repelling the milk, have lately been deservedly condemned in a judicious pamphlet by Mr. Crutwell of Bath: and yet in the performance before us, we are told, that “ Si puerpera infantem lactare nolit, curandum est, ut libere fluent lochia; mammas eodem tempore leniter contrahere oportet. *Hoc fit admovendo emplastra mammis modicè discutientia, quale est emplastrum commune cum gummi, vel applicatu lini vel lanæ, spiritu vini Gallici madefacti, sub axillis, ipsive mammis. Interea autem lac e mammis bis quotidie exsugendum est, ne ibi manens obstructions pariat.*”

We cannot but think that when milk is accumulated in the breasts, the increased irritability that is consequently induced, renders the suction of them extremely painful, and liable to produce inflammation; and that such an operation will rather invite a greater flow of fluid to the gland than unload it; and yet our author contends that such a practice is salutary, and that it is opposed only by ignorant women, “ *ignaræ obstetrices, aliæque puerperæ.*”

There is no division of the work into chapters or sections, nor is any particular order ob-

served in the arrangement of the aphorisms, but a copious index is given at the end of the volume.

VIII. *An account of a safe and efficacious medicine in sore eyes and eye-lids.* By Thomas Dawson, M. D. 8vo. Johnson, London, 1782. 15 pages. 1s.

AFTER many fruitless inquiries concerning a medicine for diseased eyes, which above fifty years ago was in the possession of Dr. Thomas Nettleton of Halifax, in Yorkshire, our author at length, in 1763, met with a near relation of his own, who having been a considerable sufferer from ophthalmia, informed him she never found so much benefit from any means used for her relief as from an ointment prescribed for her by Dr. Nettleton himself, and with which, after his decease, she had at times been supplied by Dr. Key of Manchester, who had formerly been a pupil to that gentleman.

Well persuaded of Dr. Key's benevolence, our author applied to him for the receipt, which he readily communicated, adding, at the same time, some useful hints relative to his own practice and experience, with respect to this medicine.

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The Receipt is given in the following words from Dr. Key's letter on the subject :

R. Butyr. ℥viij. Aq. Fort. Comp. Argent. Viv. ā ℥j. Camphor. ℥ij. Butyro liquefacto et in coagulum denuo tendenti, injice argentum vivum in Aq. Forti solutum et Camphoram in olei olivarum ℥ij solutam diligenter agitans in mortario marmoreo donec refrixerint, ut f. s. a. Unguentum.

Dr. Key observes that when this has been long kept, it becomes friable so as to require a little more oil to be added to it; but that let it be ever so friable, it will easily soften by being held to the fire.

If the inflammation is violent Dr. Key recommends topical bleeding, and even scarification of the eye-lids previous to the use of the ointment; but if the inflammation is moderate, the patient, we are told, may begin with it without any previous bleeding. Cooling purges, however, are to be prescribed.

For a film in the eye we are directed to soften the ointment by holding it to the fire, and then taking up some of it upon a fine camel-hair pencil, to draw it over the film twice a day.

IX. *Cases in Medicine, interspersed with strictures, occasioned by local incidents.* By William Stevenson, M. D. The second edition, with corrections and additions. 8vo. Newark, 1781. 224 pages.

THE local incidents contained in this work relate to some disputes between our author and the apothecaries at Newark. Dr. Stevenson is of opinion that *Cantharides*, *Tartar Emetic*, *Mercurius Dulcis*, *Aloes*, *Sena*, *Jalap*, *Salts*, and *Opium*, compose all the efficacy of the apothecary's shop. The rest he considers as "inferior duplicates of these, or fallacious unknown alteratives." "With these—says he—without scruple, I class the Peruvian bark, that idol nostrum of the faculty and systematic deceiver of the world. I have tried it repeatedly and repeatedly; but with the academical kiss of a Judas, it has always deceived me. Oak bark is as good in every medical intention. They are both but simple bitters, and only do good as such." In another part of the work we are told, that one physician and one druggist, disinterested in principle and simple in prescription, are sufficient for any district of twenty miles circumference, not including a very large town;

town; that the true knowledge of disorders is comprisable in a score of octavo pages, which now makes huge volumes; and that the remedies for them are reducible to the above-mentioned eight articles.

In the third of the nine cases related in the work, and which are published in vindication of his mode of practice, Dr. Stevenson takes occasion to declaim with great warmth, and upon the whole with good reason, against the practice of salivation, which he describes as laying a sure foundation for numberless chronical complaints, and slowly sapping the constitution. During its violence, he observes, it stops all the natural secretions, patients under salivation being almost always costive, making but little water, and having dry skins, till the last colliquative stools and sweatings come on, and with which death is continuous.

In the measles, Dr. Stevenson tells us, he has long been accustomed to keep a blister discharging from their very first appearance, to preserve the bowels open all the time, and to allow a dilute proportion of spirits and water for the patient's common drink. He assures us that by this method the disease is subduable in a
few

few days, and that all the usual bad consequences are entirely prevented.

X. *An address to the King and Parliament of Great Britain, on the important subject of preserving the lives of its inhabitants, by means which, with the assistance of the legislature, would be rendered simple, clear, and efficacious to the people at large. With an appendix, in which is inserted a letter from Dr. Lettsom to the author. By W. Hawes, M. D. one of the institutors of the Humane Society, Physician to the Surrey Dispensary, and reader of lectures on animation. To which are subjoined, hints for improving the art of restoring suspended animation: and also for administering dephlogisticated air in certain diseases, and particularly in the present epidemic, termed Influenza, proposed (in a letter to Dr. Hawes) by A. Fothergill, M. D. Member of the Royal College of Physicians, and F.R.S. 8vo. Doddsley, London, 1782. 77 pages.]*

THE Humane Society has been established only eight years, and it appears from the last report, that within that period 136 patients have been restored from apparent death. If such

such has already been the success of this new undertaking, under all the disadvantages of popular prejudice, the scarcity of suitable apparatus, the distance oftentimes from skilful medical aid, and still more the want of proper receiving houses, much more might certainly be expected were these to be established in their proper districts, as in other countries, and the institution made an object of the national police.—The address to the King and Parliament, which extends through the first twenty pages of the work before us, is intended to draw the attention of the legislature to this important subject. Dr. Hawes proposes that there be appointed by authority of Parliament, in every parish, one or more General Receiving-houses, the expence to be defrayed by a general, county, or parish rate;—that at each of these places all the necessary apparatus, as proper medicines, an electrical machine, cupping instruments, a warm bath, beds, &c. be deposited, and that a medical practitioner, with a moderate salary, and one or two other intelligent persons properly qualified to assist in the business be constantly resident in the house.

The letter from Dr. Lettsom, mentioned in the title page, contains only his approbation of the above plan, and is comprized in a dozen

lines; but that from Dr. Fothergill to Dr. Hawes, fills the last 41 pages of the work, and affords us many judicious hints for improving the art of restoring suspended animation, &c.

Dr. Fothergill expresses a wish that a certain criterion between positive and apparent death, besides that of putrefaction, may be soon discovered. The popular idea, he observes, that life quits the body in an aerial form, at the instant respiration ceases, has introduced dangerous error. He is of opinion, that the vital principle, like that of electricity (to which he thinks it bears strong affinity) often remains in a dormant state, without betraying any signs of its presence, till it happens to be roused by the proper modes of excitation. Hence he considers the clay-cold-hand, the stiffness of the limbs, the dilatation of the pupil, the cadaverous countenance, and in some cases, even putrefaction itself as equivocal signs of absolute death. He speaks of a peculiar *glassiness* of the eye, when accompanied with coldness and flaccidity of the skin, as being one of the most certain criterions of positive death. Another sign, likewise, which he thinks deserves our particular attention is, when air, blown into the mouth, passes without interruption through the whole alimentary canal,

as

as this affords a strong presumptive proof that the internal sphincters have lost their irritability, and of course that life is totally exhausted.

Among other means of restoring suspended animation he recommends inflation of the lungs with dephlogisticated air; and the use of electricity, beginning with the slightest shocks, and gradually proceeding to make the electrical circuit pass more briskly in different directions through the region of the heart, the lungs, and spinal marrow. He observes, that at that critical period when slight twitchings or gaspings mark the first dawn of returning life, instead of *increasing*, it will be prudent to *diminish* the electrical current, lest the vital spark be again extinguished.

In cases where the natural heat of the body, in consequence of remaining some time under water, or exposure to extreme cold, is apparently extinguished, he thinks it may be very necessary to apply artificial heat, and for this purpose recommends a sweating chair or warm bath heated to 100°. On the other hand he observes, that persons suffocated by the fumes of charcoal require to be exposed to the cold air, and cold water, and are liable to relapse if brought into a warm room; that it is found requisite to rub

the frozen with snow; and that dephlogisticated air seems to be peculiarly adapted to the recovery of those who are overcome by mephitic vapours, as electricity does to those who are struck by lightning. He recommends the injecting warm dephlogisticated air into the intestines instead of the fumes of tobacco. He thinks that the sickness and universal languor which these fumes usually produce on other occasions, when they penetrate beyond the valve of the colon, but ill suits with the idea of restoring animation. He queries whether the same objection may not be urged against the operation of emetics in these cases.

In a postscript to his letter, Dr. Fothergill recommends the use of dephlogisticated air as a corrector of the impure air of courts of judicature, hospitals, prisons, &c. He observes that the Pennsylvanian stove, which already excels in throwing out warm steams of atmospheric air, might easily be adapted to the above intention. He likewise advises (on theoretical grounds only, as he candidly confesses) the use of dephlogisticated air in the Influenza. He recommends, on the authority of Abbé Fontana, the breathing this species of air through lime water, in order to make it serve for respiration thirty times as long

long as in the ordinary way. This process, if it would stand the test of experiment, would certainly be a discovery of the very first magnitude; but unfortunately, it has been proved by Dr. Priestley (*Exp. and Obs. relating to various branches of Nat. Phil.* Vol. 2.), that both the fact and the reasoning urged in support of it are void of foundation.

SECTION II.

ESSAYS AND OBSERVATIONS.

- I. *Remarks on the use of the Nux vomica in Dysentery.* By J. O. Hagström, M. D. Provincial Physician in West-Gothland. Translated from the Swedish by a Member of the Society. Read March 4, 1782.

PUTRID fevers and dysenteries have of late prevailed much in this province, especially among the lower sort of people, many of whom have died before any proper remedies could be administered. Aged persons and children suffered much under these complaints, but none more than scorbutic and consumptive patients, very

very few of the latter having been preserved, and those not without great trouble.

The dysentery began to make its appearance in the autumn of 1772, and soon became very general, not only in the town of Linköping, but likewise in the country. Having received orders from Baron Strömfield, our Governor, to visit the different parishes in which the epidemic prevailed, I prescribed such remedies as are usually recommended in cases of this sort; but finding that they did not always produce the desired effect, and that the price of them oftentimes exceeded the abilities of the poor, I was desirous of discovering some medicine which might unite cheapness with efficacy. Recollecting the theoretical proposition of some celebrated physicians, that the epidemic dysentery is an hæmorrhage of the intestines brought on by animalculæ, I was led to imagine that the *nux vomica*, which is known to be fatal to large animals, might also prove equally destructive to these animalculæ. The austere taste of this substance confirmed me in my ideas on this subject, and knowing that it might be taken in small doses without danger, I ventured to try its effects. I began by cleansing the bowels with rhubarb and cream of tartar, after which I prescribed a scruple of *nux vomica*
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in powder to be taken once a day. The good effects of this remedy exceeded my most sanguine expectations. To relate all the cases in which I administered it would be superfluous, I shall therefore content myself with giving the heads of the two following.

Case I. A boy fifteen years old was attacked with symptoms of fever, and violent griping pains in his bowels, attended with frequent bloody stools. He took every morning for some days a dose of rhubarb, and at night a dose of *Theriaca Andromachi*, but the dysenteric symptoms still remaining obstinate, I gave him a scruple of nux vomica once a day in barley water, and after taking four doses of it he was perfectly well.

Case II. A tradesman in Linkoping after labouring for several days under a severe dysentery sent for me. As he was of a plethoric habit, and had a quick, full pulse, I began with prescribing venæsection, and a vomit of Ipecacuanha, after which I gave him rhubarb and cream of tartar, and at night a dose of *Theriaca Andromachi*. By this method he got better, but relapsing again, I administered the nux vomica, two doses of which proved effectual.

The good effects of this remedy in the above and a great number of other similar cases which
fell

fell under my own care, induced me to give a quantity of the powder to the Reverend Mr. Beckmark, Minister of Krisberg, to distribute it among his poor parishioners, but being afraid that they would not take it if they knew that it was *nux vomica*, which is considered as a poison, I gave it the name of *American Powder*. It was not long before the same clergyman applied to me for a fresh supply of the medicine, assuring me that it had had a wonderful good effect as well in the dysenteries that had succeeded a putrid fever, as in those in which no such fever had preceded. I received similar accounts from several other clergymen to whom I intrusted the same medicine for the use of the poor in their respective parishes. I have taken care to send copies of the letters I received from these Gentlemen to the College of Physicians at Stockholm, and likewise to the Chevalier Bacek, physician to the King. From these letters it appears that in each of these parishes a great number of dysenteric patients have been cured by this remedy; and that in the single parish of Schedwi it has been administered to 245 out of 255 persons who were attacked with dysentery, of which number only 22 died, ten of whom were children who refused to take the medicine, and the
 twelve

twelve others were persons who did not apply for relief till they were greatly reduced by the disease. In the greater number of cases a cure was effected in three or four days. Many of the patients took the *nux vomica* alone without the previous use of rhubarb or any other medicine. Persons who had been inured to hard labour and a coarse diet were the subjects with whom it seemed to be most efficacious, and it was found to agree better and to be more active when taken in warm water or beer than when swallowed in either of those liquors cold.

It is a known fact that oily and sulphureous substances are destructive to *acari*, and I have met with several instances during the epidemic I have been speaking of, where the dysentery has been cured by sweet butter, hog's lard, a mixture of gunpowder and brandy, &c.; and this observation seems to confirm the idea that these *animalculæ* are the cause of the violent griping in the dysentery.

I shall reserve my remarks on the effects of other medicines in this disease till another opportunity. In the mean time I shall hope that the remedy I have been recommending, and the utility of which I have so fully experienced, will be found equally efficacious by others.

II. *A Case of Calculus, attended with a fungus of the bladder. Communicated by F. Swediar, M.D. Physician in London. Read April 8, 1782.*

A Gentleman who had enjoyed a pretty good state of health till about his fortieth year, upon jumping one day out of a phaeton, was seized with a most acute pain in his back and about the region of the bladder. A few minutes after this, feeling an inclination to make water, he voided with great difficulty and pain a few drops of bloody urine, and the pain increasing, his urine became totally suppressed. Repeated venæsections, clysters, gentle evacuants, the warm bath and other remedies removed these alarming symptoms in a short time and the natural flow of urine was restored. From that time, however, his urine constantly afforded more or less of a mucous sediment, and any little irregularity in diet, or violent exercise, brought on pain and difficulty in making water, and sometimes a total suppression of urine which more than once brought his life into danger. In this painful way he passed three years, when, upon being searched, a stone was felt in the bladder, and he submitted to the operation. A stone of a deep mulberry colour, weighing an ounce and

and a quarter, was extracted. The operation was succeeded by violent inflammation, and he died on the third day.

He had expressed a desire that his body might be opened after death, and it was accordingly examined the day following. The principal seat of the disease, as was expected, was found to be in the bladder, the whole of which was preternaturally thickened, and on its inner surface, about an inch from its neck, was observed a considerable fungus. The kidneys were slightly diseased. The abdominal and thoracic viscera afforded no remarkable appearance.

From what was observed it seemed probable that at first the stone had adhered to the bladder, and occasioned little or no inconvenience till it was separated by the violent exertion above spoken of, and then gave rise to the formation of the fungus.

Newman-street,
March 26, 1782.

SECTION III.

MEDICAL and PHILOSOPHICAL NEWS.

THE Royal College of Physicians at Nancy have proposed the following prize questions : “ 1. What are the unwholesome properties of snow water, ice water, or the waters of chalky and gypseous soils ? What affinities and distinctions are there between these four species of water, relative to their chemical composition and their dietetic effects ? What is the reason that all waters which contain chalk or gypsum, as well as those which derive their source from melted snow or ice, are not equally unwholesome ? Why do the two first produce the same effects as the two last of these waters, notwithstanding the difference in many respects that exists between them ? ”

“ 2. What degree of influence have they in the production of certain popular or endemial diseases, particularly in *Bronchocele*, *Scrophula*, and *Rachitis* ? Does this influence extend to calculous and gouty affections ? Will this inquiry lead to the discovery of any analogy between the lymphatic or glandular system, and the bones

“ bones and articulations; or to ascertain whe-
 “ ther the unwholesome effects of these different
 “ waters take place in the process of chylica-
 “ tion or in that of any other particular se-
 “ cretion?”

As it will be difficult for any one to examine all the waters in question, Dissertations will be received which treat only of one species, and as many medals, of 100 livres each, will be distributed as there may be found works deserving the prize in the opinion of the committee appointed by the College. The dissertations are to be written in French or Latin, and sent to Dr. Harmant, President of the College, before May 1, 1784.

The Royal Academy of Surgery at Paris have proposed the following question for a prize medal of the value of 500 livres: “ What may be
 “ the influence of the passions of the mind in
 “ chirurgical diseases, and what are the means
 “ of obviating their effects?” The Dissertations on this subject are to be written in French or Latin, and sent to M. Louis, Secretary to the Academy, before December 31, 1782.

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The Royal Medical Society at Paris have offered a premium of 300 livres to the person who shall "determine by chemical analysis the nature of the antiscorbutic remedies procured from the tribe of cruciform plants."—This class (*cruciformes*) in Tournefort's method, corresponds with the *Tetradynamia* of Linnæus. The dissertations are to be written in Latin or French and sent to M. Vicq D'Azyr, Secretary of the Society, before the 1st of May, 1783.

Extract of a Letter from a Physician at Göttingen to a Member of the Society. Dated Göttingen April 13, 1782.

"A very ingenious paper on the receptacles of air, in birds, has lately been communicated to our Royal Society, by Professor Merrem, who lectures here on the natural history of the ancients. Among other experiments he made a hole in the os humeri of a pigeon, through which he injected wax, and by this means completely filled all the aerial receptacles. He next injected the arteries of a hen with blue, and the receptacles with red wax. He is convinced that the aspera arteria has no openings between the bronchia, through which the air can pass into the cavity of the thorax, as some have asserted. He observes

serves that the lungs are covered with a thin membrane in which there are several foramina, through which the air passes into the different receptacles. This paper, which will probably appear in the next volume of our Commentaries, will be illustrated by several curious engravings.

“ I shall send you by the first opportunity that presents itself, several inaugural Dissertations, which have lately been printed here. One of them, by Dr. B. F. Munch, relates to *the use of the Belladonna in Canine Madness*. It seems that his father, who is a clergyman at Clöze, has for many years administered the root of this plant in powder with great success, and in a great number of cases. The result of this practice is given in the thesis. To very young children he gives at first one grain: in adults he begins with ten grains, repeating and gradually increasing the dose every other night, it being necessary, we are told, to wait forty-eight hours between each dose. After taking the medicine, the patient is to lie in bed, and promote perspiration by means of warm diluting drink. If it occasions a troublesome vertigo, which, as sometimes has been the case, does not easily go off, an emetic, or purge, or a few spoonfuls of vinegar, generally remove it. As a preventative, three doses are said to be, in general, sufficient.

sufficient. If the symptoms of hydrophobia are actually present, the same remedy is prescribed in a large dose, with the addition of warm bathing, clysters, anointing the wound with oil, &c. I must candidly confess to you, that I am far from being sanguine in my expectations from this new remedy, notwithstanding the many fine things that Dr. Munch says of it; but as so little has hitherto been done in these melancholy cases, it certainly has a claim to our attention."

We have lately seen the prospectus of a new work, which is to be entitled "Encyclopedie Methodique ou par ordre des Matieres, par une Societ  des Gens de Lettres, de Savans et d'Artistes, pr ced  d'un vocabulaire universel servant de Table pour tout l'ouvrage, orn  des Portraits de M. M. Diderot et d'Alembert, premiers editeurs de l'Encyclopedie." It is to be printed in two forms; one in 4to. with three columns, in 42 volumes of letter-press, and seven volumes of plates; the other in 8vo. with two columns, in 84 volumes, besides seven of plates. The price to subscribers will be 672 livres; to non-subscribers, 798; and the whole work is to be finished in five years. None of the volumes are to be had separate.

This

This work is to consist of twenty-six dictionaries, of which we shall just enumerate the titles, with the names of the authors, that our readers may form some idea of the magnitude of the undertaking, and of the manner in which it is likely to be executed.—1. Mathematics, 2 vols. 4to. by Abbé Boffut and M. de la Lande; 2. Natural Philosophy, 1 vol. by M. Mongez; 3. Physics, 2 or 3 vols. by M. Vicq D'Azyr; 4. Anatomy and Physiology, human and comparative, 1 vol. by the same, assisted, in the comparative part, by M. D'Aubenton; 5. Surgery, 1 vol. by M. Louis; 6. Chemistry, Metallurgy, and Pharmacy, 2 vols. by Messieurs de Morveau, du Hamel, and Moret; 7. Agriculture, 2 vols. by Abbé Teflier, M. Thourin, and M. Fougereux de Bondaroy; 8. The Natural History of Animals, 3 vols. by Messieurs D'Aubenton, Mauduyt, and Guenau de Montbeillard; 9. Botany, 2 vols. by the Chevalier de la Marck; 10. The Natural History of Fossils, 1 vol. by M. D'Aubenton; 11. Natural History, and Physical Geography, 1 vol. by M. Desmarets; 12. Geography, ancient and modern, 2 vols. by Messieurs Robert, Masson de Morvilliers, Mentelle, and Bonne; 13. Antiquities, 1 vol. by M. Court de Geblin; 14. History, 2 vols. by M.

VOL. III. N° II. D d Gaillard;

Gaillard; 15. Theology, 2 vols. by Abbé Bergier; 16. Philosophy, ancient and modern, 1 vol. by M. Naiglon; 17. Metaphysics, Logic, and Morality, 1 vol. by M. Guenau de Montbeillard; 18. Grammar and Literature, 1 vol. by Messieurs Marmontel and Beauzée; 19. Civil Law, 3 vols. by Abbé Remy; 20. Finances, 1 vol. by M. Digeon; 21. Political Oeconomy, 1 vol. by Abbé Beaudeau; 22. Commerce, 1 vol. by Abbé Beaudeau and M. Benoit; 23. Marine, 2 vols. by Messieurs Vial de Clairbois and Blondeau, Professors at Brest; 24. Art of War, 2 vols. by Messieurs de Keralio and de Pommereuil; 25. Fine Arts, 1 vol. by Abbé Arnaud and M. Suard; 26. Arts and Trades, 4 vols. by Messieurs Roland de la Platière, Perier, Fougeroux de Bandaroy, Desmarets, and others; 27. General Index to the whole, 1 vol. 4to.

It has been remarked of Epidemic Catarrhs, that they have usually been the most widely and generally spreading epidemic known. This observation is particularly applicable to the late, or rather present disease of this kind, for its influence can hardly yet be said to be at an end.

We have been informed by a very respectable
Phyfi-

Physician, who is lately returned to this country from Russia, that the Influenza began to prevail at St. Petersburg about the beginning of February. It was traced from Tobolsky, and was supposed to have come thither from China; so that, like the generality of former epidemics of this kind, it seems to have been of Asiatic origin. It soon spread through the whole Russian empire, appearing with nearly the same symptoms as it has done here, but with more of the inflammatory type, a circumstance which may be ascribed to the difference of season and climate. Many persons, at St. Petersburg, had a second, and even a third attack. These relapses were generally attended with considerable inflammatory symptoms, and oftentimes proved fatal.

This disease spread rapidly through all the Northern parts of Europe, and about the beginning of May began to be felt in London. The spring here, as well as in other parts of Europe, had been unusually backward; and the weather, for some weeks previous to the appearance of the epidemic, had been cold and wet. The wind had blown chiefly from the N. and N. E. quarters.

About the 20th of May it became extremely general, and continued to be so during the re-

mainder of the month. Some hot days in the beginning of June seemed to have disarmed it of much of its violence; and after the second week we heard but of few fresh attacks. In Kent and Sussex, and in the Western counties, it began to be felt nearly about the same time as in London; but in the Northern parts of the kingdom it appeared somewhat later. At Edinburgh, tho' as general, it was much milder than in London. One of our correspondents, who resides in Kent, near the coast, informs us, that it passed off very lightly in that part. "Few (says he) have escaped it; but I know not of a single instance of danger."

We have been assured, by a very ingenious physician, that an entire family in the city escaped, altho' all their neighbours were attacked with it; and several instances have fallen within our own observation of one or more persons of a family escaping while the rest were affected.

The symptoms produced by this epidemic were extremely various. In the greater number of patients it began with a stoppage at the nose, lassitude, pains in the back and limbs, a sense of weight and a dull heavy pain about the forehead, chiefly in the direction of the frontal sinuses, and extending from thence to the temples
and

and sometimes to one or both ears. On the second or third day, in some cases sooner, in others later, a copious discharge of mucus began to take place from the nose, and the patients were troubled with a frequent dry cough, the seat of which seemed to be principally about the larynx. While these symptoms were going on, and especially during the first days of the disease, the pulse was quickened to 100, and in many to 120 strokes in a minute, but without any increased fulness.

Some had violent pains about the face with little or no cough; others had a troublesome ophthalmia with a discharge of acrid tears. In several the night fever was attended with slight delirium. The patients who were so affected were generally weak and extremely irritable. In some the discharge from the nose preceded the pain in the head, while in others it did not come on till two or three days after it, and we met with some cases where there was a violent throbbing pain of the head without any discharge from the nostrils. In some it produced a slight sore throat, and several complained that they lost their taste for three or four days after the violence of the symptoms was abated.—Of all this variety of symptoms the pain about the
sinuses

sinuses of the face seemed to be the most constant.

Some who had it slightly got well in three or four days, while others were extremely ill with it for a fortnight, and we still every day meet with patients whose complaints of cough, loss of flesh, &c. are owing to the severity of the Influenza, or to its having been improperly treated.

As hardly any valetudinarians escaped it, and as in these it generally appeared with the greatest severity, so in general it was attended with dangerous symptoms only in patients of this class. We have heard of several instances where it seemed to have hastened the death of the patient by coming on in the advanced stage of phthisis or other dangerous complaints; but we have seen no case where it proved fatal to patients who were previously in a good state of health.

Of the medicines that were prescribed in this complaint a small dose or two of emetic tartar given at the beginning so as to excite nausea and a slight diaphoresis, seemed to have the best effects. The oily mixture, with nitre, and *Elixir Paregoricum*, were useful in mitigating the cough. In many cases the inhaler was used with advantage. By these simple means, and attention to diet, the disorder, in the worst cases, was easily removed.

removed. Of the many patients we saw in this way, there were but few who seemed to require bleeding, and these were chiefly pregnant women, in whom there is always a disposition to inflammatory diathesis.

We have seen no instance of a second attack, that is, no case where the disease occurred again with the same or any thing like the same symptoms as at first; but we have met with several patients, chiefly females, who some days after their recovery from a severe attack of the Influenza have had a troublesome deep seated cough and slight fever, which by proper care have generally gone off in a few days.

Dr. Broussonnet, of Montpellier, a very ingenious naturalist who is at present in London, is preparing a natural history of fishes, which he intends to publish in numbers. Each number is to consist of ten plates and five sheets of letter-press in Latin.

M. Horne, one of the physicians to the Duke d'Orleans, has begun to publish at Paris a new periodical work, entitled, *Journal de Medecine Militaire*, a number of which is to appear every third

third month. It consists of observations made in military hospitals. .

M. Willemet, apothecary at Nancy, in the *Journal de Medecine* for February 1782, has given the natural and medical history of the *Rhododendron Chrysanthum*. The medical account is taken chiefly from Koelpin (see our 1st vol. p. 226.). This plant which is the *Rhododendron ponticum* of Linnæus, is described by Tournefort under the name of *Chamaerodendros pontica maxima, folio lauro cerasi*, and has been found by Alstroemer, a Swedish naturalist, in the neighbourhood of Gibraltar. It grows spontaneously in the Levant, on the coasts of the Black Sea, in the Isles of the Archipelago and Kamtschatka, and along the Amur in Russia, Siberia, and China. It abounds most in rich soils, along rivers and lakes, and in the shade.

An Academy of Sciences has lately been instituted at Lisbon. It is composed of Twenty-four ordinary and the same number of Honorary Members. Twelve of the latter are to be foreigners. There are likewise supernumerary and corresponding Members. The Queen of Portugal has given the Academy apartments in the Palace

Palace *das Necessidades*, and the exclusive privilege of printing almanacks.

A third volume of Dr. Cullen's *First lines of the practice of Physic* is expected soon to be published at Edinburgh.

P R O M O T E D.

March 30. Mr. — Graham to be Surgeon's Mate to the garrison at Gibraltar.

April 9. Mr. Andrew Graves, hospital-mate, to be Surgeon to the 53d regiment of foot, in the room of Mr. George Currie. Mr. H. M. Menzies, to be Surgeon to the 84th regiment of foot, in the room of Mr. Alex. Davison.—11. P. M. Aug. Brouffonnet, of Montpellier, M. D. Matthew Guthrie, M. D. physician at Peterburgh, and David Pitcairn, M. B. to be Fellows of the Royal Society.—18. Mr. John Pearson to be additional Surgeon to the Lock Hospital.—25. John Gunning, Esq; to be Fellow of the Royal Society.—27. Mr. Alexander Barr to be Surgeon to the 22d regiment of dragoons.

May 11. Mr. William Graham to be Surgeon to the 103d regiment of foot.—16. Mr. Vincent
Vol. III. N° II. E e Wood

Wood to be Surgeon to the forces in Jersey.—
 18. Mr. James Muir, hospital-mate, to be Surgeon to the 3d regiment of foot.—29. Mr. John Mallet, of the 45th of foot, to be Surgeon to the 11th regiment of dragoons. Mr. William Hatchet, hospital-mate, to be Surgeon to the 45th regiment of foot.—31. Dr. James Hervey to be Physician to the Lock Hospital, in the room of Sir Noah Thomas, Knt, who has resigned.

June 22. Mr. John Rush to be Surgeon to the 2d troop of horse grenadier guards. Dr. William Sinclair to be Surgeon to a corps of foot to serve in Newfoundland.—25. Mr. Patrick Lindsay to be Surgeon to the 45th regiment of foot, in the room of Mr. Hatchet.

D I E D.

January. Mr. Robert Boyes, surgeon to the 15th regiment of foot, killed at the siege of Brimstone-hill, in the island of St. Christopher.

March 25. At Cuckfield in Suffex, Mr. Chatfield, apothecary.—29. In Queen-street, Westminster, Dr. Thomas Wilbraham, Fellow of the College of Physicians and R. S. and formerly physician to the Westminster Infirmary.

April 21. At Folkestone in Kent, Mr. T. Nickalls,

Nickalls, surgeon and apothecary.—29. At Hackney, Dr. Thomas Dawson, Member of the College of Physicians, and formerly Physician to the London Hospital.

May. At Wymondham, Norfolk, Mr. James Carver, surgeon. At Coventry, Mr. Bennet, apothecary.—2. At York, Mr. Anthony Hubback, apothecary.—5. At Bowling, near Bradford, Yorkshire, Mr. John Whitaker, apothecary.—13. Daniel Charles Solander, M. D. in the University of Upsal, LL. D. in that of Oxford, Fellow of the Royal Societies of London, Stockholm, Upsal, &c. and one of the Under Librarians of the British Museum. This celebrated Naturalist was born in Sweden May 28 1736. His death was occasioned by a fit of apoplexy, with which he was attacked on the 9th of May while in conversation, with his usual cheerfulness, at his friend Sir Joseph Banks's in Soho-square. On dissection, a considerable quantity of coagulated blood was found in the lateral ventricles of the brain.—At Nottingham, aged 32, Mr. John Hollis, surgeon.—16. Of a pulmonary consumption, at Reading in Berkshire, on his way to Ireland, Dr. Dennis Ryan, late Assistant Physician to the Military Hospital in Jamaica, and author of two ingenious Essays, published in

former numbers of our Journal. He was born in 1746 at New Park near Cashel in Ireland, and studied Physic at Edinburgh and Paris. He graduated at Rheims in 1779, and the year following set out for Jamaica, with evident symptoms of incipient phthisis. The ill state of his health obliged him to return to England in 1781. He has left behind him accounts of two or three interesting cases, which perhaps will appear in some future number of our work; and a Latin translation of Dr. Duncan's *Medical Cases*, which is in the hands of Professor Hahn at Leyden, who has undertaken to get it printed.—At Saffron Walden in Essex, Dr. Brown, aged 89.—17. At Bath, Mr. Bush, apothecary.—19. In Upper Brook-street, Westminster, aged 82, Mr. Buller, apothecary. At Bath, Mr. John Donne, surgeon.—23. At Dewsbury, Yorkshire, Mr. Battye, surgeon.

June 4. At Berlin, aged 50 years, Dr. Zinnendorf, First Physician to the Prussian army.—5. In London, Mr. Robert Duckenfield, surgeon to the 2d troop of horse grenadier guards.—12. At Maidstone, Kent, aged 72 years, Mr. William Waller, apothecary. At Liverpool, aged 82 years, Mr. Edward Livesley, formerly a surgeon and apothecary in that town.—13. Mr. Samuel Ball Sherston, surgeon to his Majesty's hospital ship the Orford, at Sheerness.

SEC.

SECTION IV.

QUARTERLY CATALOGUE.

1. **T**HE Valetudinarians Companion, or observations on air, exercise, and regimen, with the medical properties of the sea and mineral waters of Brighthelmston. By *Loftus Wood, M. D.* Physician to the Misericordia General Dispensary. 8vo. *Watts*, London, 1782. 82 pages, 1s. 6d.

2. A Description of the Influenza; with its distinction and method of cure. By *R. Hamilton, M. D.* and Fellow of the Royal Medicinal Society of Edinburgh. 8vo. *Johnson*, London, 1782. 31 pages, 1s.

3. Tentamen Medicum Inaugurale quædam de vino complectens. Auctore *Geo. McClenachan*. 8vo. Edinb. 1781. p. 34.

4. Dissertatio Inauguralis, quædam de Fermentatione exhibens. Auctore *Gulielm. Leister*. 8vo. Edinb. 1781. p. 37.

5. De Systematis Nervosi Officiis, ejusque conditionibus nonnullis, Tentamen inaugurale. Auctore *Carolo Stuart*. 8vo. Edinb. 1781. p. 58.

6. Dissertatio Inauguralis de Scorbuto. Auctore *Jacobo Heme*. 8vo. Edinb. 1781. p. 49.

Tentamen

7. Tentamen Medicum Inaugurale, amplectens quædam de Vasis absorbentibus. Auctore *Joh. Winterbottom*. Edinb. 1781. p. 49.

8. Differtatio Inauguralis, de Plantarum incrementi Causis. Auctore *Archibaldo Lindsay*. 8vo. Edinb. 1781. p. 43.

9. Differtatio Medica Inauguralis de Lue Venerea. Auctore *Gulielm. Harrison*. 8vo. Edinb. 1781. p. 58.

Three experiments are related in this Dissertation. In the first, the matter of a chancre was introduced into the Urethra and excited a Gonorrhœa. In the second, the inner surface of the prepuce was inoculated with the matter of a Gonorrhœa, but without producing any effect. In the third, matter from a chancre was mixed with quicksilver that had been previously extinguished with gum arabic, and afterwards introduced by inoculation into the skin in various parts of the body. But this, like the second experiment, produced no effect. The two last experiments, we are told, were repeated several times and always with the same event.

10. Differtatio Medica Inauguralis de Apoplexia sanguinea. Auctore *Joh. Johnstone*. 8vo. Edinb. 1781. p. 34.

11. Memoirs of the Life and a view of the character

character of the late *Dr. John Fothergill*. Drawn up at the desire of the Medical Society of London. By *Gilbert Thompson*, M. D. Member of the Royal College of Physicians, and Secretary to the Society. 8vo. *Cadell*, London, 1782. 45 p.

12. De l'Électricité du corps humain dans l'état de santé & de maladie. Ouvrage couronné par l'Académie de Lyon, dans lequel on traite de l'électricité de l'atmosphère, de son influence & de ses effets sur l'économie animale, &c. Par *M. l'Abbé Bertholon* de S. Lazare, des Académies Royales des Sciences de Montpellier, Beziers, Lyon, &c. *i. e.* Of the Electricity of the human Body, in health and in sickness. A work crowned by the Academy at Lyons, and which treats of the electricity of the atmosphere, of its influence and effects on the animal œconomy, &c. By the *Abbé Bertholon* of St. Lazarus, &c. 12mo. Paris, 1780. 540 p.

13. *C. F. Wensels* des Chimie, &c. *i. e.* Chemical Essays on Metals, written with a view to ascertain their constituent principles. By *C. F. Wensels*. 4to. Leipzig, 1781.

In a work printed in 1773 the author gave a singular treatise on the nature of gold, and some other metals, but without describing his processes. Mr. Cappel in opposition to that essay maintained

maintained that gold did not give the results mentioned by Mr. Wensels. The latter has now published his processes.

14. *Aphorismos de Cirurgia de Hermann Boerhaave, comentados por su discipulo Van Swieten, y traducidos al Castellano, con las notas de M. Luis. i. e. The Chirurgical Aphorisms of Herman Boerhaave, commented on by his disciple Van Swieten, and translated into Spanish, with the notes of M. Louis. By Don Juan Galisfeo y Xiorro, Professor of Physic and Member of the Royal Medical Academy at Madrid. 8vo. Madrid. 1779.*

15. *Arzneykundige Abhandlungen, herausgegeben von dem Collegio der Aerzte in London, i. e. Medical Transactions published by the College of Physicians in London. Translated from the English by D. C. Chr. Krause, 8vo. 3 vols. Leipzig, 1778.*

16. *Henrici Palmatii Levelingii, Philos. et Med. Doctor, Anat. Chirurg. et Institut. Medic. in Universitate Anglipolitana, Prof. Publ. &c. Observationes Anatomicæ rariores de Valvula Eustachii et foramine ovali, quas pro gradu Doctoris defendit Franc. Xavier de Buglioni. 4to. Anglipoli (Ingolstadt) 1780, with two copper-plates.*

17. *Dissertatio Inauguralis practico-medica de Mercurii*

Mercurii Sublimati Corrosivi in siphylide efficaci tutoque usu, &c. Auctore G. Wiffikally. 8vo. Vienna, 1780. p. 40.

18. *Schönb. Lud. Fink* de Morbis biliosis animalis, occasione Epidemiæ cujus historia præmissa est, ab anno 1776 ad 1781 in Comitatu Teclimbürgenfi observatæ. 8vo. Munster, 1781.

19. *Medinisch œkonomische untersuchung der eigenschafter und wûrkungen eines æchten und verfälschten puders, &c. i. e. A medico-œconomical inquiry concerning the properties and effects of pure and adulterated powder, with all the known and some new modes of preparing it. By Christian Fred. Reufs, M. D. & Prof. 8vo. Tubingen, 1781. 96 p.*

This is a very learned Dissertation on hair powder. The author inquires into its etymology and history, and describes the deleterious effects of bad, and the properties of good powder. He calculates that 7200 bushels of wheat are annually consumed in this manufacture in a country inhabited by 10,000 persons, if only a thirtieth part of them use it. He points out other substances, besides starch, which may be substituted for powder.

20. *Lettere sopra A. Corn. Celso, al celebre Abate Girolamo Tiraboschi. i. e. Letters to the Vol. III. N° II. F f celebrated*

celebrated Abbé G. Tiraboschi concerning A. Corn. Celsus. 8vo. Rome, 1779. 278 pages.

These letters, which are twelve in number, are the production of the late Dr. Bianconi, whose death is announced page 101 of our present volume.

21. Fasciculus Animadversionum physiologici atque mineralogico-chemici argumenti. Auctore *Carolo Henrico Köstlin*, Phil. et Med. Doct. Acad. Florent. et Societat. Teuton, Jenens. Membro. 4to. Stuttgard, 1780.

The first of the three essays contained in this work, is entitled, “Disquisitio Observationum Cl. della Torre de figura molecularum cruoris sanguinis.” Father della Torre, in his experiments on the blood, made use of glass lenses, or rather globules, by which the diameter of the object was more increased than by any microscope hitherto invented. By means of these lenses he discovered that the red particles of the blood which had generally been supposed to be of a globular shape by physiologists, were in fact flat cylindrical rings, each of which was furnished with a little vesicle or bladder.—The author of the work before us having had occasion to see the ingenious father repeat his experiments, suspected that his opinions relative to the shape of
of

of these particles were not well founded. He has since repeated the experiments with glasses of different diameters given to him by father della Torre, and he acknowledges that the results corresponded pretty exactly with della Torre's account; but he is of opinion that the real appearance of the object is changed by the lens; for when globules of coloured glass, made so small as to be hardly perceptible to the naked eye, were viewed through della Torre's glasses, the middle of these also seemed to be somewhat transparent, and he thinks there is no doubt but that if they could be made sufficiently minute to represent the globules of the blood, they would likewise give the appearance of a ring.

The second essay is intitled, "Examen mineralogico-chemicum materiei quæ Herculaneum et Pompeios anno Ær. Christi 79 sepelivit," and the third relates to the origin of the *Pumex officinalis*.

22. Sammlungen zur Physik und Naturgeschichte von einigen Liebhabern dieser Wissenschaften, *i. e.* A Collection of tracts on Natural Philosophy and Natural History. Vol. I. 8vo. Leipzig, 1779, with 8 copper-plates.

This collection contains professor Pallas's observations on the formation of mountains, and the changes that have happened to the globe;

Mr. Cavallo's treatise of electricity; and several tracts from the Philosoph. Transf. Rozier's Journal, Buffon's history, and other works of reputation.

23. *Ignatii A Born*, Equ. Acad. Imp. Nat. Cur. Petropolit. Londin. &c. Sodalis, Index rerum naturalium Musei Cæsarei Vindobonensis. Pars I. Testacea. 8vo. Vienna 1778, with one copper-plate.

24. Testacea Musei Cæsarei Vindobonensis, quæ jussu Mariæ Theresiæ Augustæ disposuit et descripsit *Ignatius A Born*, Eques, &c. Folio. Vienna, 1780, with 18 coloured engravings.

25. Auctarium ad *Alb. Halleri* Elementa Physiologiæ Corporis humani excerptum ex nova editione et adaptatum veteri. 4to. Leipzig, 1780.

This Supplement to Haller's Physiology is intended to accommodate those who are in possession of the Quarto edition of that work. It is to be completed in eight numbers, one for each volume. Three numbers and part of a fourth are already published; these include all the additions in the eight volumes (all that are as yet published) of the octavo edition.

26. Chemisch Physische Schriften; *i. e.* Chémico-physical Essays. By *Francis Charles Achard*,
Pro-

Professor of Chemistry, and Member of the Academy of Sciences at Berlin, &c. 8vo. Berlin, 1780.

We have here twenty essays, the greater part of which relate to Philosophical Chemistry. In the fifth our author endeavours to prove that the teeth are constantly growing. He kept two squirrels upon soft food, which could require no mastication, and after a certain time he observed that their teeth were considerably lengthened; they continued to grow till at length the animals were unable to open their mouths, and died through inanition.

The ninth essay relates to some experiments on the elastic gum, and a cheap method of making surgical instruments with it, by dissolving it in oil of turpentine, and precipitating it with spirit of wine. The gum, we are told, then appears in the form of a thick mucilage, which resumes its elasticity upon being dried in the air.

In the twelfth we have an account of a palsy cured by electricity; and in the thirteenth essay the author treats of the incubation of eggs by electricity.

27. Von der Wirkung des Mohnsafts in der Lustseuche, &c. *i. e.* Of the effects of opium in the venereal disease. To which are added some observations relative to the diseases and natural history

history of North America. By *John David Schæpf*, M. D. Physician to the troops of Anspach - Bayreuth. With a preface by the editor, *J. Delius*, M. D. and Prof. 8vo. Erlangen, 1781.

A young Englishman was so afflicted with the lues, that the pain arising from his ulcers deprived him entirely of rest. In this state, opium mitigated the pain, brought on a better digestion of the ulcers, and was the chief means of procuring a cure which before had been despaired of.— The author remarks, that the same remedy has since been given in other similar cases, and with success. Its effects are very satisfactorily accounted for by the editor in his preface, who supposes that it acts in the same manner in venereal ulceration as belladonna, cicuta, &c. do in cancers.

The author gives an account of some comparative experiments with different patients, in which he observes, that those who were treated with mercury suffered more and much longer than those who took opium. The work closes with some remarks on the climate and seasons of North America, and their influence on the health of the natives and strangers.

28. *Dissertatio Medica de sensibilitate ossium*

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morbosa, quam Preside *Adolpho Murray* sustinuit
Laurentius Brandelius, M. A. 4to. Upsal, 1781.

Professor Murray attributes the sensibility of the bones to the nerves, which he contends pass even to the medulla. He mentions several cases to prove that the bones often become sensible when in a carious state.

There are several parts of the animal body which, tho' insensible in an healthy state, are rendered more or less sensible by disease. Our author has remarked this change of disposition in tendons, cellular membrane, and bones, and likewise that the sensibility of the nerves is gradually increased. He attributes the difficulty of discovering the nerves in the bones to this, that their extremities lose their cylindrical shape, and, becoming flattened, are with difficulty distinguished from the cellular texture.

The compression of the nervous fibrillæ in a sound state of the bones, he supposes to be the cause of the insensibility of the latter, and that hence they acquire feeling in proportion as they become carious and spongy.

29. *Dissertatio Inauguralis Medica, exponens vulnerum cum deperditione substantiæ Medelam. Auctore Ottone Philippo Wiedenfeld. 4to. Gottingæ, 1781.*

30. Dis-

30. *Dissertatio Medica Inauguralis de Hepatide*. Auctore *Josepbo Sigisbert Miquel*. 4to. Nancy, 1781.

31. *De limitanda laude librorum medicorum practicorum usui populari destinatorum*. Auctore *J. A. Murray*, M. D. & Prof. 4to. Gottingen, 1779. p. 32.

Since the appearance of M. Tissot's *Avis au Peuple*, France and Germany (we may add England too) have been deluged with popular treatises on physic. This has given rise to the present work.

32. *Dissertation sur les avantages de l'allaitement des enfans par leurs meres ; ouvrage qui a été couronné par la Faculté de Medecine de Paris, dans sa seance publique le 9 Decembre 1779. i. e. Dissertation on the advantages resulting from mothers suckling their children ; being the work that obtained the prize given by the Faculty of Physic of Paris at their public meeting, December 9, 1779. By M. Landais, M. D. Physician at Effarts in Poitou. 8vo, Paris, 1781. 55 pages.*



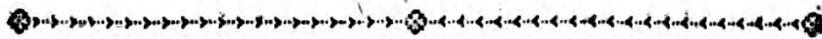
T H E
LONDON MEDICAL JOURNAL,

For JULY, AUGUST, and SEPTEMBER,
1782.



S E C T I O N I.

B O O K S.



- I. *Farther remarks on the useless state of the lower limbs, in consequence of a curvature of the spine, being a supplement to a former treatise on that subject.* By Percival Pott, F. R. S. Surgeon to St. Bartholomew's Hospital. 8vo. Johnson, London, 1782. 64 pages.

IT is now three years since this ingenious and respectable writer first published his observations on the disease which makes the subject of the present tract. His wishes and expectations with regard to the method of cure, which he then proposed, have been most pleasingly fulfilled. He has received such repeated testimony of its success from so large a number

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of the most eminent practitioners, not only in this town and kingdom, but in many other parts of Europe; that these, he assures us, added to his own experience, have completely satisfied him, and enabled him to say, that in proper cases, and under proper treatment, he has no doubt of its being universal.

The disease in question, is a disease of the Spine, producing an alteration in its natural figure, and not unfrequently attended with a partial, or a total loss of the power of using, or even of moving, the lower limbs.

From this last circumstance (the loss of the use of the limbs) it has in general been called a palsy, and treated as a paralytic affection; to which it is in almost every respect perfectly unlike.

The occasion of this mistake, our author observes, is palpable; the patient is deprived of the use of his legs, and has a deformed incurvation of the spine; the incurvation is supposed to be caused by a dislocation of the vertebræ; the displaced bones are thought to make an unnatural pressure on the spinal marrow, and a pressure on that being very likely to produce a paralysis of some kind, the loss of the use of the legs is in this case determined to be such:
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the truth is, that there is no dislocation, no unnatural pressure made on the spinal marrow, nor are the limbs by any means paralytic, as will appear to whoever will examine the two complaints with any degree of attention.

In the true paralysis the muscles of the affected limb are soft, flabby, unresisting, and incapable of being put into even a tonic state; the limb itself may be placed in almost any position, and the joints are perfectly and easily moveable in every direction.

In the present case, the muscles are more attenuated, and lessened in size, but they are rigid, and always at least in a tonic state; by which the knees and ancles acquire a stiffness not very easy to overcome; by means of this stiffness, mixed with a kind of spasm, the legs of the patient are either constantly kept stretched out straight, in which case considerable force is required to bend the knees, or they are by the action of the stronger muscles drawn across each other, in such manner as to require as much to separate them; when the leg is in a straight position, the extensor muscles act so powerfully as to require a considerable degree of force to bend the joints of the knees; and when they have been bent, the legs are immediately drawn

up with the heels towards the buttocks : by the rigidity of the ancle joints, joined to the spasmodic action of the gastrocnemii muscles, the patient's toes are pointed downward in such manner as to render it impossible for him to put his foot flat to the ground ; which makes one of the decisive characteristics of the distemper.

These, according to our author, are the marks of the distinction which ought to be made between the two diseases. They are certainly fully sufficient to shew the impropriety of confounding them with each other.

The majority of those who labour under this disease are infants or young children. Adults are by no means exempt from it ; but Mr. Pott has never seen it at an age beyond forty.

When it attacks a child who is old enough to have walked properly, its aukward and imperfect manner of using its legs is the circumstance which first excites attention, and the incapacity of using them at all, which very soon follows, fixes that attention and alarms the friends.

The account most frequently given is, that for some time previous to the incapacity, the child had been observed to be languid, listless, unwilling to move much, or briskly, and that he was very soon tired ; that he had been ob-
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served frequently to trip and stumble, although no impediment lay in his way; that when he moved hastily, his legs would cross each other involuntarily, by which he was often and suddenly thrown down; that if he endeavoured to stand still, and upright, unsupported by another person, his knees would totter and bend under him; that he could not, with any degree of precision or certainty, steadily direct either of his feet to any particular point; that soon after this he complained of frequent pains and twitchings in his thighs, particularly when in bed, and of an uneasy sensation at the pit of his stomach; that when he sat on a chair, his legs were almost always found across each other, and drawn up under the seat; and that in a little time after these particulars had been observed, he totally lost the power of walking.

These, we are told, are the general circumstances which are found, at least in some degree, and that pretty uniformly, in most infants and children; but there are others which are different in different subjects.

If the incurvation be of the neck, and several vertebræ are affected, the child finds it painful to support its own head. If the dorsal vertebræ are diseased, loss of appetite, hard dry cough, laborious

laborious respiration, quick pulse, and disposition to hectic, appear pretty early. In an adult, the attack and the progress of the disease are much the same; but there are some few circumstances, our author observes, which may be learned from a patient of such age, which either do not make an impression on a child, or do not happen to it.

An adult, in a case where no violence hath been committed, or received, will tell you, that his first intimation was a sense of weakness in his back bone, accompanied with a heavy, dull kind of pain and great lassitude; that this was soon followed by an unusual sense of coldness in his thighs, and a palpable diminution of their sensibility; that in a little time more, his limbs were frequently convulsed by involuntary twitchings, particularly in the night; that soon after this, he not only became incapable of walking, but that his power either of retaining or discharging his urine and fæces was considerably impaired, and his penis became incapable of erection.

The adult also, it is added, finds all the offices of his digestive and respiratory organs much affected, and complains constantly of pain and tightness at his stomach.

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When a curvature is perceived either in an infant or an adult, it is generally attributed to a blow or some previous violence. Our author is of opinion, however, that this supposition is seldom, if ever, true in either case.

The true cause of this disease, he observes, is a morbid state of the spine, and of some of the parts connected with it. He contends that in infants this is the sole cause, and that external violence has nothing to do with it. In the adult, he will not assert that external mischief is always out of the question, yet he is persuaded that the part in which it shews itself must have been previously in a morbid state, as no degree of violence whatever is capable of producing such an appearance as occurs in the disease he is treating of, unless the bodies of the vertebræ were by previous distemper disposed to give way. In this distinction, we are told, consists the very essence of the disease.

The true curvature is invariably uniform in being from within outwards; but it varies in situation, in extent, and in degree. In general the lower limbs alone feel the effect; but the author mentions five cases, in one of which the arms only, and in the other four both legs and arms, were affected.

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As the primary and sole cause of all the mischief, is a distempered state of the parts composing, or in immediate connection with, the spine, tending and most frequently ending in a caries of the body or bodies of one or more of the vertebræ, no application made to the limbs themselves, or such remedies as electricity and cold bathing, can, as our author very justly observes, ever be of any possible use. The same failure of success attends the use of the different pieces of machinery, all of which, from the most simple to the most complex, but particularly the swing and the screw, are calculated, as we are told, to remove what does not exist. They are founded upon the erroneous supposition of an actual dislocation, and therefore they always have been, and ever must be, unsuccessful. They, who have had patience and fortitude to bear the use of them to such a degree as to affect the parts concerned, have always found increase of pain and fever, and an exasperation of all their bad symptoms, and our author has seen more than one instance in which the attempt has proved fatal. He takes this opportunity to caution his readers against the absurd custom of using these instruments to prevent growing children from becoming crooked,

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an effect, he observes, which, by forcing the shoulders unnaturally backwards, they must contribute to rather than prevent. If, instead of adding to the embarrassment of childrens drefs by such iron restraints, parents would throw off all of every kind, and thereby give nature an opportunity of exerting her own powers; and if in all cases of manifest debility resource was had to friction, bark, and cold bathing, with a due attention to air, diet, exercise, and the rest, the children of the opulent would, he thinks, stand a chance of being as stout, and as well shapen, as those of the laborious poor.

In his former publication on this subject the author was led to remark, that, previous to the appearance of the curvature, the general health of the patient does not seem to be materially, or at all affected. He very candidly acknowledges that a more enlarged experience in, and a more careful attention to the disease have convinced him that he was mistaken on this point; that most, if not all the complaints of children, labouring under this infirmity, precede the curvature, and that a morbid state of the spine, and of the parts connected with it, is the original cause of both. An inference of the greatest importance may be deduced from this fact, as he

is satisfied that the malady may, in many instances, by early and proper attention, be prevented from producing its otherwise inevitable consequences, temporary lameness, and permanent deformity.

In the same edition likewise he had described the bodies of the diseased vertebræ, as being enlarged and spread; but upon repeated inquiry and examination, he is convinced that they are not, and that the disease does not so properly *enlarge* as erode. The state also of the intervertebral cartilages, he finds to be subject to great variety, they being sometimes totally destroyed, while the caries is small in degree, sometimes apparently but little injured, where the caries has done considerable mischief, and sometimes totally annihilated.

The remedy for this most dreadful distemper consists merely in procuring a large discharge of matter, from underneath the membrana adiposa on each side of the distempered bones forming the curvature, and in maintaining such discharge until the patient shall have recovered his health and limbs. The idea of this mode of treatment, it seems, was first suggested to our author by the late Dr. Cameron of Worcester, who

who informed him, that, having remarked in Hippocrates an account of a paralysis of the lower limbs, cured by an abscess in the back, he had, in a case of useless limbs attended with a curvature of the spine, endeavoured to imitate this act of nature by exciting a purulent discharge, and that it had proved very beneficial.

It is a matter, we are told, of very little importance towards the cure, by what means the discharge be procured, provided it be large, that it come from a sufficient depth, and that it be continued for a sufficient length of time.

Mr. Pott has tried different means of setons, issues by incision, and issues by caustic, and has found the last in general preferable, being least painful, most cleanly, most easily manageable, and capable of being longest continued.

The caustics are directed to be applied on each side of the curvature, in such a manner as to leave the portion of skin covering the spinal processes of the protruding bones entire and unhurt, and so large, that the sores upon the separation of the eschars may easily hold each three or four peas in the case of the smallest curvature; but in large curves, at least as many more.

The issues are not only to be kept open, but the discharge from them is to be maintained by means of orange peas, cantharides in fine powder, ærugo æris, or any such application as may best serve the intended purpose, which should be that of a large and long-continued drain.

Whatever length of time it may take to obtain a complete cure, by restoring the health as well as the limbs, the issues, we are told, must be continued as long, and even a considerable time longer, especially in the persons of infants and growing children; the necessity of which, it is observed, will appear more strongly, when it shall be considered, that infants and young children of strumous habits are the subjects who are the most liable to this distemper, and that in all the time previous to menstruation in one sex, and puberty in the other, they are in general more served by artificial drains than any other persons whatever.

By means of these discharges the eroding caries is first checked, and then stopped; in consequence of which, our author imagines, an incarnation takes place, and the bones unite and form a kind of anchylosis.

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Nothing, he observes, can be more uncertain than the time required for the cure of this distemper. He has seen it perfected in two or three months, and he has known it require two or three years; two thirds of which time passed before there was any visible amendment.

The first symptoms of amendment are described to be a recovery of appetite, a return of refreshing sleep, a more quiet and less hectic kind of pulse, and if the patient is of an age to distinguish he will say, that he has got rid of the distressing sensation of tightness about the stomach. In a little time more a degree of warmth, and a sensibility is felt in the thighs, and generally much about the same time, the power of retaining and discharging the urine and fæces begins to be in some degree exerted.

The first return of the power of motion in the limbs is rather disagreeable, the motion being generally painful and spasmodic, especially in the night. At this period of the cure, we are told, it is no uncommon thing, especially in bad cases, for the patient to remain some time without making any further progress; but in the milder kind of cases, the power of voluntary motion generally soon follows the involuntary. The knees and ancles gradually lose
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their stiffness, and the patient is then able to set his feet flat upon the ground, which is the certain mark that the power of walking will soon follow.

The first attempts to walk are feeble, irregular, and unsteady; but when patients have arrived at this, our author has never seen an instance in which they did not soon attain the full power of walking. At first the patient finds it difficult to resist, or to regulate, the more powerful action of the stronger muscles of the thigh over the weaker, by which his legs are often involuntarily crossed. Adults find assistance in crutches, &c. but the best and safest assistance for a child is said to be what is called a go-cart, so made as to reach under the arms and enclose the whole body.

The deformity remaining after recovery is subject to great variety. When one vertebra only is affected, and the patient young, the curve, we are told, will, in length of time, almost totally disappear; but where two or three are affected, this cannot be expected.

In his former publication our author gave a short account of the first two or three cases which occurred to him. These he has now omitted, because the number of experiments
which

which have been made by eminent practitioners, at home and abroad, have sufficiently established the fact, and render the relation of particular cases unnecessary.

The author informs us, that in the space of three years he has met with but one single instance in which it has failed, where from the state of the disease, and of the patient, there was any reasonable foundation for hope; that all those who have submitted to keep the issues open long enough, have been so restored to health, and to the free use of their limbs, as to be perfectly capable not only of exercise, but of hard labour, and that he has never yet, among those so treated, met with one on whom the disease has returned.

Towards the close of the work the author gives us a variety of observations drawn from an attentive examination of the appearances that occur in this disease, and of their effects in different subjects. He is convinced that the complaint arises from a scrophulous indisposition, which shews itself in a variety of forms; sometimes appearing in a thickened state of the ligaments of the spine, at others in the form of a distempered state of the intervertebral cartilages, or in that of diseased glands. Sometimes

times it is found in the form of bags or cysts, containing in general partly a sanious and partly a curd-like kind of substance. Sometimes under these bags or cysts, even while they remain whole, the subjacent bones are found diseased, and tending to become carious. In some subjects these collections erode the containing membranes, and make their way downward by the side of the psoas muscle, or by the side of the pelvis behind the great trochanter, or in some cases to the outside of the thigh.

These different affections, we are told, are productive of many disorders, general and local, of which, strumous tubercles in the lungs, and a disordered state of some of the abdominal viscera often make a part.

When the ligaments and cartilages only, and not the vertebræ, are affected, the whole spine sometimes gives way laterally, forming sometimes one great curve to one side, and sometimes a more irregular figure, attended with many marks of ill health.

When the attack is made upon the dorsal vertebræ, the sternum and ribs, for want of proper support, necessarily give way, and other deformity additional to the curve is thereby produced.

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The author is persuaded that this kind of caries is always confined to the bodies of the vertebræ, seldom or never affecting the articular processes; that without this erosive destruction of the bodies of the vertebræ, there can be no curvature of the kind which he is speaking of, or, in other words, that erosion is the *sine quâ non* of this disease; that although there can be no curve without caries, yet there is, and that not unfrequently, caries without curve; that the caries with curvature and useless limbs, is most frequently of the cervical and dorsal vertebræ; the caries without curve, of the lumbar, though this is by no means constant or necessary; that in the case of carious spine, without curvature, it most frequently happens that internal abscesses are formed, and the matter either makes its way outward, or being detained within the body destroys the patient; that what are commonly called lumbar and psoas abscesses are not unfrequently produced in this manner; and that a caries of the spine is more frequently a cause than an effect of these abscesses.

Five very accurate engravings are added, representing the morbid appearances of the spine in different subjects.

II. *A Treatise on different laborious Deliveries, and on Polypi of the Uterus.* By M. Herbiniaux. (Continued from p. 170).

OF the first volume of this work we gave an account in our last number. In the second volume the author treats of the uterine polypus. He begins with lamenting the inattention of practitioners to this disease, the very existence of which, he observes, has been denied by some of the most eminent in their profession. He opposes this erroneous opinion by remarking, that, as the uterus and vagina are covered with a membrane similar to that which lines the nostrils and other cavities where polypi are acknowledged to be frequently found, so it seems reasonable to believe that the former are not exempt from their attack. He also quotes the authority of several authors, ancient as well as modern, who have described them under different names, and proposed methods of eradicating them by the crotchet, fillet, &c. He thinks it is owing to a want of precision in the writers on this subject, and to the neglect of examining sooner in painful and obstinate diseases of the uterus, that the disorder in question is so little known.

known. He is of opinion that if an examination was constantly and accurately to be made in such cases, we should often find a polypus to be the unsuspected cause of uterine hæmorrhage, or mistaken for cancers; and thus patients, deemed incurable and condemned for life to bear a nauseous disease, might, by an easy operation, be restored to health. He further remarks, that polypi are sometimes confounded with partial or total descents of the uterus; and insists, that in all the cases in which the pendent uterus has been said to be safely removed by the knife or ligature, it has been simply a polypus that has been thus extirpated.

From this general and indiscriminate censure of practitioners our author excepts the late M. Levret, from whose large and useful collection of cases and observations he recites several facts, which tend at once to shew the frequency of the disease, and the almost general ignorance of the profession on this subject.

We are next presented with a definition of the word Polypus, and a particular account of those treated of in this book. He describes them as a fleshy substance, varying in consistence and bulk, and adhering to the uterus or vagina (from whence they draw their nourishment) by a

single pedicle or stalk more or less thick, but always considerably smaller than the body of the polypus. To this the author might have added from M. Levret, that they are covered with a membrane, which is a continuation of that which lines the cavity from whence they take their origin, and is plentifully supplied with arteries and veins, the latter being larger than the former, and in those polypi, which arise from the fundus uteri, frequently varicous. Uterine polypi may be distinguished, we are told, from a mole, by observing the breasts of the patient, which are tumid as in time of pregnancy when there is a mole, but flaccid when there is only a polypus. The uterus, when distended with a mole, falls from side to side, according to the motion of the woman; but when there is a polypus, that viscus is kept steady in its place; the abdomen also in the latter case is less enlarged. The os uteri, in case of a mole, never opens until the latter has acquired its destined bulk and is about to be excluded, which it at length is by the force of labour pains; but when a polypus is contained in the uterus, the os uteri continues dilated several months or years, without exciting any of those convulsive throes, which in this case would sooner terminate in the inversion

inversion of the uterus than in the detachment of the offending body. M. Levret explains this by supposing that, as the increase of the polypus is gradual and almost insensible, it acts as a wedge on the os uteri, and thus by slow degrees procures a passage through that opening, without exciting those contractions of the fundus uteri, which the sudden and forcible action of a foetus or mole upon that orifice would occasion. It is this stricture of the os uteri round the body or pedicle of the polypus that occasions the varicous appearances of the veins just now spoken of, and to the bursting of which M. Levret ascribes the hæmorrhage that constantly attends those which take their rise from the fundus uteri; this stricture is sometimes so considerable as to act as an artificial ligature, and occasion the wasting and at length falling-off of the polypus; of which he quotes several examples from Mauriceau and others. Polypi, our author observes, may be distinguished from a partial descent or inversion of the uterus by introducing a finger into the vagina, because if it is the uterus that descends it will be found to increase in bulk upwards, whereas the polypus tapers towards its pedicle or stalk. The inverted or descending uterus also, unless it has con-

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tinued till it is diseased, may easily be returned and detained; while the polypus either cannot be put back, or at least returns as soon as the restraining force is removed. In a total descent or inversion of the uterus, the vagina being drawn with it, it is impossible to introduce a finger into the pelvis; but the polypus being attached to the internal surface of the uterus or vagina, allows the finger to pass around its body, and frequently to trace it to its insertion. **A** scirrhus, or occult cancer, may be distinguished from a polypus by their sensibility, the latter, particularly at its basis, being absolutely insensible. Scirrhi also have no pedicles, but are broader where they are attached to the uterus, or vagina, than at their summit. From this account of the nature of uterine polypi, and of the marks by which they may be distinguished from other diseases of those parts, the author proceeds to his method of extirpating them by ligatures, and to a description of an instrument he has invented to carry the noose up to the neck of the polypus, when it is either seated so high, or the passage is so strait as not to allow it to be performed by the fingers. The idea of this invention, which appears to be extremely ingenious, he acknowledges to have taken from

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M. Levret's; but contends, and seemingly with reason, that it is much superior to the latter, particularly in the ease and certainty with which it may be applied. But as this part of the work would not be intelligible without the engravings, which the author has annexed to this description, we must refer our readers to the volume itself, and pass on to some reflections he has made on the operation. He observes, that in many instances this operation is not to be performed without considerable pain, and even danger; and in one case, where the polypus was very large (nearly of the size of a child's head at its full time, and the neck of it four inches in diameter) and its substance of a tendinous hardness, after several attempts to remove it by the ligature, he was obliged, on account of the extreme pain it occasioned, to untie the noose. At length, however, he contrived to saw through the neck of the polypus by drawing a strong thread alternately backwards and forwards. How an operation of this kind could be successfully performed upon so solid a body, placed so far out of the reach of the operator's fingers, we confess ourselves unable to conceive. Several cases are related in which the ligature was used, and which serve to explain the nature of the

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the instrument, and the manner of applying the noose. The work closes with an account of the approbation his methods have received from the Academy of Surgery at Paris and the Chirurgical Society at Amsterdam, as well as from several private and eminent practitioners. Upon the whole, although we are not disposed to believe that the disease is so frequent as the author imagines, yet we cannot but acknowledge, that it may be sometimes present when it is not suspected, and must therefore confess ourselves indebted to him for the cautions he has published on this subject.

His work is certainly highly deserving the attention of practitioners, and to them we beg leave to recommend a trial of his instrument, as experience is the only test by which its merit can be decided.

III. *Observations on the superior efficacy of the Red Peruvian Bark, in the cure of agues and other fevers. Interspersed with occasional remarks on the treatment of other diseases, by the same remedy. By William Saunders, M. D. Member of the Royal College of Physicians in London,*

London, and Physician to Guy's Hospital. 8vo.

Johnson, *London*, 1782. 76 pages.

WHEN it is considered that in our fleets and armies the numbers, who fall a sacrifice to the epidemic fevers of warm climates, infinitely exceed those who are destroyed by the enemy; and that in almost all the dangerous fevers which occur in our East and West India settlements, the bark is a principal remedy, the utility of the present publication must be sufficiently obvious.

In the preface to this work the ingenious author informs us he had long suspected that the Peruvian bark, in common use, was inferior in power and efficacy to that recommended by Morton and Sydenham, in whose works the medical virtues of this drug, in intermittent and other fevers, are extolled as being almost infallible. In their time, he observes, the quill bark was not mentioned; their cotemporary writers on the materia medica, particularly Dale, describe the Peruvian bark of that period, as being of a larger kind, of more compact pieces, and of the colour of the rust of iron, which marks are very expressive of the red Peruvian bark. M. de la Condamine, we are

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told (*Mem. de l'Acad. des Sciences*, 1738) was surprized when he was informed that the writers on pharmacy and materia medica in England had preferred the small and quill bark, while the inhabitants of New Spain held the larger bark in higher estimation. The same writer, speaking of the three species of quinquina, the white, the yellow, and the red, observes that these three kinds differ in their virtue only, the white having scarce any virtue.

As a farther proof that the red bark was early in use in this country, our author informs us that Mr. Springall of Thames-street, whose uncle was, in 1702, with Sir George Rooke at Vigo, had a quantity of this sort of bark, which was part of the plunder brought home at that time. It was purchased about four years ago by Mr. Pearson, an apothecary in Spital-square, who observed that its decoction was much stronger than that of the common bark.

The taste and flavour of the red bark, it is remarked, is more difficultly evolved, and is therefore at first not so obvious from the closeness of its texture, and from its resinous coat being inclosed between two other layers. It is evidently heavier than any other kind of bark, and seems to have been prepared and dried with
greater

greater attention, its original appearance and form being better preserved. Dr. Saunders thinks it probable that it may be the bark of the trunk of the tree, and he is the more confirmed in this opinion by the ideas of Dr. Withering and Dr. Fothergill, who, in their letters to him on this subject, have remarked that the essential and active parts of the oak bark, are more intire, and in larger quantity in the trunk and larger branches, than in the twigs or smaller branches. He thinks it probable also, that the small and quilled bark may be procured from younger trees, not yet arrived at their full maturity; and in proof of this he quotes a passage from the *Encyclopedia*, where it is mentioned that Mr. Arrot, a Scotch surgeon, who had gathered the bark in the place where it grows, found that the small curled bark, so much esteemed in England, is the bark of younger trees which frequently recover the barking, while the older trees never do. This affords a striking proof that the early bark introduced into Europe was of the larger kind and from the older trees, while the difficulty of procuring it has been the means of introducing a smaller and younger bark.

The preface is followed by an introduction, in which the author informs us, that, in the year 1779, a Spanish ship from Lima, bound to Cadiz, was taken by an English frigate and carried into Lisbon ; her cargo consisted chiefly of this bark, a part of which was afterwards brought into England, and purchased by several druggists. Our readers will recollect that, in our Journal for November 1781, we gave some account of this circumstance, and of the singular efficacy of this remedy in the cure of intermittents.

It seems that although the general title by which it was sold was that of *Quinquina*, yet it was supposed by our druggists to be a new medicine.

The work itself begins with a concise account of the Natural History of the Bark. Our author is persuaded, that the bark of which he is treating is the *Cinchona Officinalis* LINN. Sp. pl. 244.

The inhabitants of Old Spain, he observes, always preferred the larger bark, and from the relations of travellers he is disposed to think, that more attention is paid in cutting and drying the bark, which is consumed in Spain, than what is brought to a foreign market.

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The red bark, he adds, is very distinguishable from those large, coarse, woody, and fibrous masses, that are occasionally mixed with the common Peruvian bark.

Dr. Saunders next describes its sensible qualities. “ The red bark,” he tells us, “ is in much larger and thicker pieces than the common Peruvian bark. It evidently consists of three layers. The external thin, rugged, and frequently covered with a mossy substance, and of a reddish-brown colour. The middle thicker, more compact, and of a darker colour. In this appears chiefly to reside its resinous part, being extremely brittle, and evidently containing a larger quantity of inflammable matter than any other kind of bark.

“ The innermost has a more woody and fibrous appearance, of a brighter red than the former. The intire piece breaks in that brittle manner described by writers on the materia medica, as a proof of the superior excellence of the bark.—In reducing it to powder, the middle layer, which seems to contain the greatest proportion of resin, will not give way to the pestle so easily as the other layers ; this should be particularly attended

“ tended to when it is used in fine powder. Its
 “ flavour is chiefly discoverable either in pow-
 “ der or solution, is evidently more aromatic,
 “ and has a greater degree of bitterness than
 “ the common bark.”

We next meet with an account of several experiments made by our author with a view to illustrate its chymical and pharmaceutical history. The results are, 1. That the red bark is more soluble than common bark, both in water and spirit; 2. That it contains a much larger proportion of active and resinous parts; 3. That its active parts, even when greatly diluted, retain their sensible qualities in a higher degree than the most saturated solutions of common bark; 4. That it does not undergo the same decomposition of its parts by boiling as the common Peruvian bark.—As a proof of the superior antiseptic power of the red bark, we are told, that in the month of June a large quantity of a decoction of it, which had been kept for five weeks in the laboratory of Guy’s Hospital, was equally good at the expiration of that time, as when first prepared; while a decoction of common bark gave evident appearances of a change in a few days.

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We are next presented with some judicious observations on the general operation of bark on the human body, and on its use in intermittent and other fevers. The author ascribes its effects chiefly to its tonic power. He observes that in intermittents, particularly in low and marshy situations, and in such as frequently occur in the lower parts of this metropolis, the bark cannot be given too early; the use of either emetics or purgatives, as preparatory, being not only unnecessary, but in some cases productive of more debility, and therefore to be avoided. This is agreeable to the doctrine of Cleghorn, Lind, and others.

In cases where the acute rheumatism in its remissions has assumed the form of a double tertian, our author has experienced the good effects of this remedy.

Four cases are related from his own practice, of intermittent fevers cured by the red bark, after having resisted common bark and other remedies. In three of these cases he employed only a cold infusion of the bark prepared by pouring a quart of cold water on two ounces of the red bark in fine powder, and frequently shaking the mixture for the space of twenty-four hours.

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The work closes with extracts of letters from Mr. Jacob junior, surgeon at Faversham, Mr. Boys, surgeon at Sandwich, Sir W. Bishop, knight, surgeon at Maidstone, Dr. Withering, physician at Birmingham, Mr. Sherwin, surgeon at Enfield, and Dr. Fothergill, physician in London. All these gentlemen concur in recommending the red bark as more efficacious and powerful than any other kind, especially in the cure of intermittents.

Mr. Sherwin's letter contains a curious fact of a man, who took seven half ounces of alum upon the approach of as many different fits of the ague, without any other effect than its exciting a great pain in his stomach.

Dr. Withering observes that it will require some farther experience to ascertain the necessary doses of the red bark in intermittents. He knows some practitioners, who have given one or two drachms of it in powder every four hours betwixt the fits; but he has never had occasion to give more than thirty or forty grains at similar intervals. Dr. Saunders is disposed to conclude, that it need be employed only in half the quantity we generally recommend of the other bark. We sincerely hope that this publication may excite our merchants to obtain large supplies of this valuable drug.

IV. Ob-

IV. *Observations on the Prognostic in acute diseases.*

By Charles Le Roy, M. D. F. R. S. *Regius Professor of Physic in the University of Montpellier, and Member of the Royal Society of Physicians at Paris.* Translated from the French, with Notes. 8vo. Wilkie, London, 1782. 342 pages. 5 s.

THE art of prognosticating in physic has always been considered as a very essential proof of a physician's knowledge, and his abilities in his profession are very often measured by his skill in this department; nor is this altogether without reason, because no man can foresee what is likely to happen in an acute disease, who is not thoroughly acquainted with its nature, and at the same time able to distinguish, with accuracy, all the signs it affords, and then, after tracing each of these to its most probable cause, to weigh these causes with precision, and compare them with each other, and with the natural powers of the patient. The prognostic has therefore an immediate affinity with the diagnostic, and this knowledge evidently requires an extensive acquaintance with books and nature. A physician, who excels in this art, must have studied diseases, both in his closet and at the bed-side of the sick. He must likewise pos-

less a clear, steady, and penetrating judgment, which suffers no symptom, nor even the most minute one to escape him, and which knows how to give to each symptom its just value. These are qualities which every practitioner does not possess, and even they who do, will probably not be displeased to have an useful compendium like the present, which may facilitate their studies in this way.

In the preface to this work, which is written by the translator, and from which the preceding observations are extracted, it is remarked that the ancients, who studied nature in herself, were extremely attentive to the signs of diseases, and of course were well skilled in the art of prognosticating. Semeiology, or the doctrine of signs, was confessedly the best and most useful part of the medical knowledge of the ancients. Physicians have hitherto studied the prognostics in the writings of Hippocrates, but many of them are allowed to be ill founded, and others are altogether unintelligible, and have even been the subject of controversy.

Prosper Alpini's seven books *de presagienda vita & morte* have long been in great repute with physicians. Whoever reads them, sees at once all the doctrine of the ancients on this subject ;

ject; but he copied from them indiscriminately, without distinguishing between truth and error.

The author of the work before us, we are told, has carefully compared the prognostics of Hippocrates with his own observations; adopting such as were conformable to truth, and correcting or rejecting such as were defective or erroneous.

The work is divided into four sections. In the first the author treats of the signs which indicate the state of the circulating powers and viscera. In the second he describes the evacuations, depositions, and eruptions that occur in acute diseases. The third he allots to such symptoms as could not with propriety be arranged under either of the preceding heads; and in the fourth he treats of inflammation and abscess of the breast, and some other acute diseases.

We are next presented with 316 aphorisms in Latin, selected from the writings of Hippocrates, under the title of "*De presagienda in acutis vita et morte ægrotantium, selectæ Hippocratis sententiæ.*"

The author's notes, which fill 69 pages, printed in a smaller type than the rest of the work, are placed at the end of the volume.

Those at the bottom of a page (and they are in no small number) are by the English editor, and serve greatly to illustrate different parts of the work.

In a note to a passage on rheumatism the author observes, that the acute rheumatism occurs neither in old age nor in infancy. He has indeed, he tells us, though very rarely, seen it in subjects of twelve or thirteen years of age, but then it was of less violence and duration than it is in patients who are past twenty. The chronic rheumatism, he has likewise observed to be more frequent in young people than in those in more advanced life.

The author differs from De Haen and others on the subject of critical days, the existence of which he altogether denies. He discusses this matter with considerable ingenuity in a long note.

V. *Histoire de la Chirurgie, depuis son origine jusqu'à nos jours, i. e. A History of Surgery, from its origin to the present time. By M. Dujardin, Member of the Royal Academy of Surgery, and of the Imperial Academy of Naturæ Curiosæ. Vol. I.*

4to.

4to. Paris. 577 pages, with 4 copper-plates.

THIS learned and elegant volume, which is all the author lived to finish of his intended work, brings down the history of surgery to the time of Celsus. It contains four books. In the first the author treats of the state of surgery among the most ancient nations, such as the Jews, the Phœnicians, the Assyrians, the Ægyptians, and the Greeks. The delivery of the foetus, as having been one of the earliest operations of surgery, first fixes his attention; after which he proceeds to the method of embalming dead bodies, as practised by the Ægyptians. The book closes with an account of the surgery of the Chinese and Japanese, amongst whom this art is still in a state of rudeness and superstition.

The second book contains the surgery of the Greeks, and some other nations, to the time of Hippocrates. The state of the art under that venerable father of physic, and his successors, to the time when it began to be introduced amongst the Romans, is the subject of the third book; and the fourth affords a view of the progress of surgery among the latter before and
after

after the arrival of the Greek and Arabian surgeons, and concludes with a very full account of the surgery of Celsus.

Prefixed to the whole is an introduction, in which the learned author gives an account of the superstitious practices that prevailed in surgery in the earlier ages, together with a view of the origin and history of some particular customs, such as circumcision and castration, which it was necessary to mention in a work of this nature.

To this concise view of the general plan of the volume, we shall add a few detached passages from different parts of it, that our readers may be enabled to form an idea of the author's manner.

Origin of the actual Caution.—"The Greeks
 " adopted this practice very early, and seem
 " to have borrowed it from the Egyptians
 " or the Ethiopians. These last were ac-
 " customed to burn the forehead of their
 " children the day they were born (Bartholin,
 " *de puerperis veter.*) and the Etruscans did the
 " same to the occiput. This remedy was in
 " great use among the Asclepiades, as appears
 " from a passage in Jamblicus (*de vita Pythagoræ*,
 " cap.

“ cap. 29,) and from the writings of Hippo-
 “ crates. Besides, from time immemorial, it was
 “ in use among different nations. The Lybians
 “ (*Herodotus, lib. iv.*) a people of Africa, espe-
 “ cially those who led a pastoral life, held it in
 “ high estimation. When their children had
 “ attained their fourth year, they constantly
 “ cauterized them, either in the veins at the top
 “ of the head, or in those of the temples, with
 “ greasy wool, in order to preserve them from
 “ the phlegm and pituita which they supposed
 “ to flow from the brain. When this operation,
 “ as sometimes happened, excited a sort of spasm,
 “ they calmed it by sprinkling the patient with
 “ goat’s urine. These people, who, in general,
 “ were a robust race, attributed the firmness of
 “ their health solely to this precaution.

“ The Scythians, (*Hippoc. de aere, &c.*) a
 “ nation who disputed the antiquity of their
 “ origin with the Egyptians, were in the habit
 “ of applying the cautery to their shoulders,
 “ arms, joints, breast, and loins ; and the reason
 “ of this custom was the excessive humidity and
 “ weakness of their articulations. It may be
 “ presumed likewise, from an anecdote related
 “ by Pliny (*Hist. Nat. lib. 26, c. 1.*) that the
 “ use of the same remedy among the Egyptians
 “ was

“ was of a very ancient date. So early as the
 “ time of the Emperor Claudius, when the
 “ *Montagra* (a disease so called, because it par-
 “ ticularly attacked the chin) began to appear
 “ at Rome, Egyptian physicians were sent for
 “ as being the most experienced in the treatment
 “ of this complaint, which was common in their
 “ country, and by these the application of fire
 “ was recommended as the most successful mode
 “ of cure. This excellent remedy, which the
 “ softness of our manners has rendered so rare
 “ among us, is still in frequent use in Lapland
 “ for pains of the joints, and likewise in other
 “ countries where the art is yet in its infancy.”

Homer.—“ We ought here to pay some
 “ homage to the talents and learning of Homer.
 “ Altho’ he was not a physician, yet his poems
 “ may be said to contain almost all the ancient
 “ Physic of the Greeks. We find in them a
 “ variety of information concerning the Anatomy
 “ and Surgery of those remote times, which we
 “ should in vain search for elsewhere. Without
 “ giving into the extravagant encomiums of some
 “ of his admirers, we cannot but acknowledge
 “ that he possessed a degree of knowledge that
 “ must astonish us, when we consider the time
 “ in which he lived. He is the Historian of the
 “ arts,

“ arts, and the Painter of ancient manners, and
 “ yet his poetry loses nothing either of its strength
 “ or its beauty. His descriptions shew that the
 “ Anatomy and the Surgery of his time were
 “ familiar to him. He knew that a wound of
 “ the vena cava was speedily followed by death.
 “ We are indebted to him for a description, that
 “ is sufficiently satisfactory, of the tendon of
 “ Achilles, so called, probably, because, among
 “ the ancients the name of *Achilles* was given to
 “ every thing that had any extraordinary strength
 “ or virtue. In a word, we may observe all the
 “ exactness and precision that can be expected
 “ from those early ages, in the account he gives
 “ of the method of treating wounds, such as the
 “ manner of washing them, stopping the blood,
 “ extracting from them arrows and darts, and
 “ applying to them suitable remedies.”

Venæsection.—“ The ancients imagined that
 “ young and old people were equally incapable
 “ of supporting venæsection, and that if a preg-
 “ nant woman was let blood, she was in danger
 “ of abortion, which might be true from the
 “ great quantity of blood they used to take away.
 “ These profuse evacuations, which, in certain
 “ cases, seemed to have a very favourable effect,
 “ at length fell into disrepute because the practice

“ was abused, and then they began to draw off
 “ in two days the quantity they had before been
 “ accustomed to take away in one. In particular
 “ circumstances the same good effects were not
 “ obtained, but then they were not exposed to the
 “ same dangers. As these moderate evacuations
 “ occasioned no obvious ill effect, they insensibly
 “ ventured to bleed children, old persons, and
 “ pregnant women; and as the quantity of blood
 “ taken away was proportioned to the strength
 “ of the patient, this practice was justified by
 “ the event. When they had begun, contrary
 “ to the advice of Hippocrates (Aph. 31. sect. 5.)
 “ to bleed pregnant women, a prudent use of
 “ this salutary remedy enabled them to cure
 “ those acute diseases, which on his authority
 “ had been deemed mortal*. Thus by con-
 “ vincing themselves of the falsity of one apho-
 “ rism, they discovered that of another, which
 “ could be true only in proportion as they were
 “ strict observers of the first.”

Cupping.—“ Another method of drawing
 “ blood, and which was in frequent use among
 “ the ancients, was by cupping. In the time

* *Mulierem gravidam morbo quopiam acuto corripi, lethale.*
 Aphor. 30. sect. 5.

“ of

“ of Celsus there were two kinds of instruments
 “ for this purpose. One of these was of copper,
 “ and the other of horn. The latter was nothing
 “ more than the horn of an animal, with a hole
 “ bored through its extremity, in order that the
 “ air might be drawn out by suction. When
 “ the instrument was fixed, this opening was
 “ closed with a little wax. This was the most
 “ simple kind of cupping instrument, and of
 “ course the first that was in use. Those of cop-
 “ per pretty much resembled our cupping glasses,
 “ and were applied with lighted lint. Chance
 “ rather than any precise knowledge of the rare-
 “ faction of the air, had led to this mode of
 “ applying cupping instruments so early as the
 “ time of Celsus.”

M. Peyrilhe, a very ingenious Professor of
 Surgery at Paris, who has undertaken to continue
 and complete this work, has lately published a
 second volume, which is extremely well written,
 and of which we mean soon to give an account.

VI. *An account of the Jail Fever, or Typhus Carcerum; as it appeared at Carlisle in the year 1781.*
 By John Heysham, M. D. 8vo. Cadell,
 London, 1782. 59 pages. 1s. 6d.

ALTHO' this fever arose neither in a Jail nor an Hospital, yet it so exactly resembled the Jail fever, both in the symptoms, causes, and method of cure, that our author has thought it right to describe it under that name.

The work is divided into five sections. In the first section the author treats of the symptoms and history of this fever.

It first appeared, we are told, about the latter end of March, in a house, which contained several very poor families, crowded into small, close apartments, the confined air of which was rendered still more noxious by the filth of the inhabitants.

One of the persons affected with the fever in this house was a weaver, who, on his recovery, went to his usual employment at a large workshop, where he communicated the disorder to his fellow weavers, and from thence the fever spread through every part of the town, but was confined almost entirely to the common and lower ranks of people, and raged chiefly amongst those who
 lived

lived in narrow, close, confined lanes, and in small, crowded apartments.

It attacked adults more frequently than young persons. Our author saw no children under three years of age who were affected with it. He observed likewise, that married persons were more subject to it than the single. It was in a great measure confined to Carlisle, for altho' the infection was carried to two of the neighbouring villages, it did not spread much in either of them.

Dr. Heysham has endeavoured to ascertain the number of persons who were seized with this fever, and from the best information he has been able to procure, it appears that from March 1781 to January 1782, near six hundred, or about one in eleven or twelve of all the inhabitants of Carlisle, had been affected with it, and that of this number about one in ten died.

After these remarks, and some others on the state of the air, we are presented with a history of the disease, which seems to be related with great accuracy. It corresponds with the accounts given of this fever by Pringle and other writers.

Being persuaded of the general truth of the doctrine of critical days, our author looked for them in the present case with some attention, but as far as he could observe this fever had no stated

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or certain duration. An early or a late, a salutary or a fatal termination of this complaint, entirely depended upon the constitution of the patient, and the speedy application of proper remedies.

In the second section Dr. Heysham treats of the prognostics. He observes that petechiæ, which sometimes occurred in this fever, did not portend imminent danger; and that a bleeding of the nose, unless accompanied with other dangerous circumstances, did not appear to be an alarming symptom. Neither of these symptoms, however, we are told, happened in patients who began to take bark and wine early in the disease.

In the third section the author speaks of the occasional cause of this fever, which he very properly ascribes to human effluvia, uninfluenced by any particular state of the atmosphere. In the following section he enumerates the predisposing causes. These are such as tend to weaken and debilitate the body.

The fifth and last section is allotted to the cure. The mode of treatment adopted by our author seems to have been very judicious. His first care was to remove, if possible, every cause which could tend to aggravate the disorder. For this purpose he prescribed clean linen and fresh air.

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He was likewise careful to guard against every thing that might occasion fear and anxiety in his patients. He mentions several customs prevalent at Carlisle, which, notwithstanding his attention to this point, tended much to alarm and terrify the sick. One of these is the *death-bell*, which tolls upon the death of every inhabitant. This custom is pretty general, we believe, throughout England. Another is the public cryer's ringing his bell and proclaiming in every street, in a loud tone of voice, the hour of the deceased's funeral, inviting the friends and neighbours to attend. Lastly, funeral psalms are sung by the attendants as they are conducting the corpse through the public streets to the church-yard, for interment. The ill effects of these customs, in a case of epidemical sickness like the one here spoken of, are very properly pointed out by our author.

At first, when there were symptoms of costiveness he gave small doses of tartar emetic; but, having observed in several cases where it excited vomiting, that all the symptoms of the disease were considerably aggravated, he altogether laid it aside. His chief reliance was on a liberal use of bark and Port wine. These he administered early in the disease. The bark, if the patient's stomach would bear it, he prescribed
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in substance, in doses of two scruples every second or third hour in a draught of red wine, with the addition of ten grains of *pulv. rad. serpent. virg.* if not, he gave it in decoction.

According to the age, sex, or constitution of the patient, and the urgency of the symptoms, different quantities of wine were administered. To adults he usually ordered from one to two bottles and a half in the space of 24 hours, and he never saw any bad effects from an excess, though he has sometimes perceived evident ones from a too sparing use of this grateful cordial.

Blisters seemed to have little or no effect upon the general system; but, when applied behind the shoulders, were evidently of use in abating the pain of the head.

The pediluvium, on account of the fatigue that attended it, in general served only to debilitate the patient; but fomentations of the feet and legs with flannel wrung out of hot water were of use.

When a diarrhoea occurred, our author lost no time in endeavouring to check it; first by combining opiates with the bark, and if these failed, by discontinuing the latter and increasing the quantity of wine, with the addition of a cordial astringent, till the purging was stopped.

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In cases of extreme debility, though not attended with a diarrhœa, he frequently administered opium (as a more instantaneous and diffusive stimulant than either wine or bark) with considerable advantage.

A few patients were let blood, some in consequence of advice, and some of their own accord; but of these, we are told, scarcely one escaped.

VII, *Memoirs of the Royal Medical Society at Paris.* (Continued from p. 160).

Surgery.—The first article under this head is the Society's *Report concerning the Operation of Castration as practised for the radical Cure of Hernias.* This paper relates to an enormity of which Heister, Dionis, and other writers have repeatedly complained. The Breslaw physicians assure us (*Histor. Morb. Vratislav.*) that in their city a single operator in this way mutilated upwards of 200 children. The same horrid practice, according to Haller, prevails in Switzerland. The intendants of Paris and Languedoc, struck with the frequency of it in their several districts, applied to the minister, and the latter requested the society to direct their attention to this subject. Some of these operators, we are

told, make no difficulty of taking out both testicles when there is a double hernia. - From an enquiry made by order of the bishop of Papoul in Languedoc it appears, that upwards of 500 children have lately been mutilated in that single diocese. Messieurs Poullétier de la Salle, Andry, and Vicq D'Azyr (the authors of the report) in order to remedy this grievance advise the putting in force certain good but obsolete laws, which inflict proper punishment on ignorant persons who undertake operations. — 2. *Remarks on the Cure of Ulcers by the vacillatory Motion of a Burning-glass.* M. la Peyre, a sea surgeon, relates several cases of foul ulcers with callous edges, which were cured by this practice. He applies the lens several times in a day, carrying it over the whole surface of the ulcer till a considerable degree of heat is excited. — 3. *An Account of a Cancer of the lower Lip, cured in three weeks by means of a Burning-glass.* By M. le Comte, Surgeon at Arcueil. The pain excited by this practice, we are told, is much easier to support than that occasioned by the actual cautery. After the cauterisation each day, our author applied a compress dipped in spirit of wine, and the eschar was generally thrown off in twenty-four hours, leaving the wound of a vermilion colour. The
cure

cure was effected without any loss of substance. M. le Comte observes, that the practice of insolation was adopted by the ancients, who were accustomed to expose dropical patients to the rays of the sun. He adds that the lens may be used with advantage even in winter, provided there is a little sun-shine.—4. *A new Method of remedying Wounds of the Arteries.* By M. le Comte, Student of Surgery. This is an ingenious contrivance. It consists of a quill slit up on one side, so as to surround the artery, and lined with a fine ribbon, the ends of which serve as ligatures. The author has applied it to the carotid and crural arteries of several dogs and sheep, with success. The society having appointed a committee to ascertain the merits of this invention, they laid bare the crural artery of a dog for a considerable length, and after introducing it into the tube, punctured the vessel with a lancet. They then tied the ends of the ribbon, and the hæmorrhage stopt. On the third day they withdrew the tube, but not without difficulty, as the integuments were much inflamed, and the ends of the ribbon were glued together by the pus. The animal was preserved three weeks, and then was killed; but about eight days before his death a similar operation,

though with a larger incision, was performed on the left crural artery. After death both the arteries were injected. The right was completely filled with wax, but was a little contracted at the place of the operation. In the left the wax did not pass beyond the incision, the coats of the vessel being thickened, and its cavity obliterated. In two other dogs large incisions were made in the same artery, and in both the cavity was obliterated. The society promise to continue their inquiries on this subject.—5. *An Account of a full-grown Fœtus extracted from an Abscess of the Abdomen.* By M. Debois. The woman, who is the subject of this case, was in her fourth pregnancy, and had gone her full time. The waters were evacuated, and the midwife said she felt the head of the child. At this period of the labour the patient complained of a sudden and most violent pain, which, after continuing for a short time, went off, and she then complained only of a heavy weight in the hypogastric region. Two months after this she began to be attacked with a throbbing pain of the abdomen, and a supuration took place. The abscess opened in two places, and the discharge from it was extremely offensive. She was now much reduced by hectic fever, colliquative sweats, and diarrhœa.

rhœa. At the end of three months she was carried to the Hotel Dieu at Paris, where the abscess was dilated, and the bones of a full-grown foetus extracted from the wound. The discharge for some time after this was ichorous and foetid, but in about four months she recovered her strength and flesh, and left the hospital in good health. She has still, however, a fistulous sore through which there is sometimes a discharge of fæces. Our author has met with accounts of two cases similar to this. One of them is by Littre, in the *Mem. de l'Acad. des Sciences*; the other is in the *Journal Encyclopedique de Bouillon* for 1777.—6. *A Case in which a Child's arm was extracted from an Abscess some time after Delivery.* By M. Bouillon, Physician at Mortain. A woman at the full time was delivered of a dead child; but one of its arms was torn off, and remained *in utero*. The patient continued to feel pains in the abdomen, a considerable degree of fever ensued, and an inflammatory tumour appeared in the hypogastric region which suppurated. The bones of the child's arm were extracted from this abscess, and the woman recovered.—7. *An Improvement in the Operation of Laryngotomy.* By M. Vicq D'Azyr. The thyroid and cricoid cartilages
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are separated anteriorly by a small triangular space, which may always easily be found, however much the neck may be swelled. This is the place in which our author advises the operation to be performed. He has tried it in dogs with success.

Anatomy.—1. *An Account of the growth of a horny Substance.* By M. Gastellier. The subject of this paper is a woman 97 years old, who at the age of 83, having a number of wens on her head, began to perceive an extraordinary protuberance on the lower part of her left temple, which increased rapidly, and acquired a horny consistence. This excrescence was sawed off by a surgeon, but it soon grew again. An engraving of one of these horns is given of its natural size. It is about three inches long, as large as a little finger, and twisted. Its basis adhered to the skin only, not to the bone. Similar cases are mentioned by Ingrassius, Hildanus, and Thomas Bartholine.—2. *An Account of a natural Separation of the Bones of the Pelvis.* By M. Souquet, Physician at Boulogne. The patient, whose case is here related, is an English lady, of the name of Harris, who, in her twenty-fourth year and third pregnancy, had a very long and painful

ful labour. At length the ossa pubis separated nine tenths of an inch, and she was then immediately delivered. A *crepitus* was perceptible on the least motion, a proper bandage was applied, the bones united again in about three months, and she has since had five natural labours.—3.

Description of a monstrous Fœtus. By M. Vicq D'Azyr. This child, instead of a mouth, had only a very small round opening, terminating in a conical pedicle. It had no eyes, nose, or palate, and only one ear. The rest of the body was perfect.—4.

A Case in which the frontal Nerve was wounded. By the same. A young surgeon, in fencing, lost his sight by the stroke of a foil; on examining the wound it appeared that the foil had struck on the fissure which gives passage to the frontal nerve, so that the nerve was almost entirely divided. M. Vicq D'Azyr has since divided this nerve in quadrupeds, but without producing any such effect.—5.

An Account of the singular Disease of the Widow Melin, commonly called la Femme aux Ongles. By M. Saillant.

This woman, who was born in 1730, dated her complaints from the birth of her second child, which happened in 1752. The lochia were suppressed on the third day after her delivery. On the 9th she went out, got wet, and was soon after

after seized with a violent head-ach, loss of appetite, and pains in her knees, attended with considerable swelling and inflammation. These complaints resisted a variety of medicines for the space of ten months, at the end of which time the extensor tendons of her foot contracted, and she was obliged to keep to her bed. Abscesses formed about the coccyx, and the suppuration lasted a year, attended with long and frequent syncope, preceded by cold sweats. The excessive pain of her head occasioned the loss of her eye-sight, and by degrees all the muscles of her lower limbs became contracted. During the three first years of this disease she got no sleep; but at the end of that period she slept for five hours, her menses, which had ceased all that time, re-appeared, and her pains lessened. About this time foul ulcers began to form about the ends of her fingers, and her nails grew long, fleshy, and ulcerated. She had copious sweats, and an almost incessant salivation. Her bones became fragile and incapable of resisting the flexor tendons, so that all her limbs were bent inwards except her right arm, which became twisted through its whole length. In the mean time her general health seemed to be mended, and she grew fatter; but in 1758 she was attacked with

with peripneumonia notha, and the year following with a dangerous fever. In 1762 she had an erysipelatous inflammation on her right thigh. In 1763 she had several troublesome ulcers on different parts of her body. In 1764 M. Morand presented an account of her disease, together with her portrait, to the Academy of Sciences. In 1765 she took some doses of manna, which brought on a disposition to vomit that lasted nine months, and determined her not to take any more medicines. In 1768 she had an erysipelas on her right arm. In 1772 her menses began to be irregular. In 1775 her appetite, which till then had been good, began to fail, and in the month of December of that year she died. On dissection her bones were found to be so thin and fragile, that on pressing one of the knees with a finger, the head of the tibia was broken, and the finger passed into the cavity of the bone. The marrow was in a considerable quantity, but in a vitiated state. The cartilaginous part of the bone was wholly destroyed, the earthy part remaining almost alone, so that this disease seemed to be totally different from that of Supiot's wife. The muscular flesh was almost entirely destroyed, excepting that of

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the glutæus maximus, the abdominal muscles, and the deltoid, which were the only ones she used. In the lower extremities the tendons only remained, and these were very strong, stiff and stretched. In lieu of muscles there was only cellular membrane, in which the traces of muscles and blood-vessels were with difficulty distinguished.

The heart, like the flesh of all the other muscles, was without consistence, and easily torn. The lungs were flaccid, and the liver, which was enlarged, and of a soft, pulpy consistence, seemed to be kept together only by its membranes. A schirrous concretion was observed in one of the ovaries, and the doublings of the peritonæum were filled with schirrous tumours.

M. Sàillant supposes this curious disease to have been a *plica polonica*. The skeleton of the woman is in the possession of the Faculty of Physicians at Paris.

Medical Chemistry.—1. *New Processes for preparing Martial Æthiops.* By Messieurs Maret, Darcet, Croharé, and Joffe.—2. *Accounts of the Medical Properties of fixed Air in a Cancerous Case, by Dr. Targioni of Florence, and in Cases of Putrid Fever and Phtisis, by M. Maret.* None of these accounts are sufficiently satisfactory.—3. *A Method of preparing Emetic*

Emetic Tartar. By M. Durande of Dijon. —

4. *A Method of preparing Calomel.* By M. Bailleau, Apothecary at Paris: This process consists in mixing the corrosive sublimate and water into a paste, and triturating it with crude mercury till the latter is extinguished, which is generally effected in half an hour. The mixture being then digested in a sand-bath with a gentle heat, it becomes white, and forms a very mild mercury, which requires only a single sublimation to be perfectly pure. — 5. *A new Method of preparing an Extract of Opium.* By M. Joffe. This extract is said to contain only the sedative virtue of the opium. It is prepared by stirring it in a vessel with warm water, and repeatedly pouring on it fresh water till the latter ceases to be coloured. The coloured water is then to be evaporated to the consistence of an extract, which is to be given in doses of two grains. What remains undissolved is said to be the glutinous part of the opium. —

6. *A Manner of preparing the mealy part of Potatoes.* By M. Gallot. — 7. *Remarks on the Spirituous Fermentation of Milk,* by Dr. Spielmann.

— 8. *Experiments on Urine,* by M. Bucquet. These experiments were made on the urine voided by Mrs. Souchot, after she had undergone the section of the Symphysis Pubis, and which ap-

peared to be very different in its smell from that which has remained any time in the bladder.—

9. *A Chemical Analysis of Cantharides and some other insects*, by M. Thouvenel.—10. *Analyses*, by different writers, of the Mineral Waters of *Chateldon* in Bourbonnois (chalybeate); *Saulchoir* near Tournay (chalybeate); *Digne* in Provence (hot); *Sainte Reine* in Burgundy (impregnated with fixed and volatile alkali, ol. petrolei and earth); *Manjolet* in Roussillon (hot, sulphureous and chalybeate); *Bouillants* near Avranches (acidulous chalybeate); *Roye* (chalybeate); *La Craute* in Burgundy (sulphureous); *Saint Santin* near Aigle, *Orlienas* near Lyons, and *Rainfy*. The three last are chalybeates.

Botany, and the Natural History of Drugs.—

1. *Of the Use of the Faba Sancti Ignatii in Intermittents*. By M. Four de Bourieu. The author recommends this remedy in cases that resist the bark. To adults he gives twelve, to children only six grains for a dose.—2. *The Root of Timac recommended in Dropsies*. By M. Gerard, physician at St. Domingo. This root is given in decoction. The plant it belongs to is not described.—3. *A Case of Dropsy cured by a Decoction of Galega floribus cæruleis B.* By M. Moulien,

Moulien, physician at] Rennes.—4. M. Durande, of Dijon, recommends the leaves of the *Ilex Aquifolium* L. or *Holly-tree*, in intermittents, in preference to the Peruvian bark. They are directed to be given dried and powdered in a dose of a drachm before the fit.—5. M. Aymel recommends a tincture of *Isatis* or *Woad* as a remedy in Scurvy.—6. *Remarks on Smutty Rye and Wheat.* By Father Cotte and M. Parmentier.

Medical Philosophy.—1. *A Method of preserving Water fresh at Sea.* By M. la Peyre. This consists in washing the casks with lime water, and impregnating the water with lime and acid of vitriol.—2. *An Account of the Effects of Lightning.* By M. Brillonet. This gentleman was struck with lightning, but without being materially hurt by it. Six weeks afterwards he perceived that the scissars and lancets he had in his pocket at the time of the accident had acquired a powerful magnetic quality.—3. *A Case of Asphyxy on opening a Well.* By M. Bonami, physician at Nantes.—4. *Remarks on the Adulteration of Cyder, and the means of discovering it.* By M. Bucquet.—5. *An Account of the Inflammable Air of a Well.* By Father Cotte.—6. *Experiments relative to the*

the Condensation of Mercury and Spirit of Wine.
By the same. These experiments prove, that mercury is more susceptible of condensation, but less of dilatation than spirit of wine.

Having given this summary view of the first or Historical part of the volume, we proceed now to the second part or MEMOIRS. The first article in this division is *an Account of the Diseases that prevailed at Paris in 1775 and 1776.* By M. Lorry. This paper contains a very accurate history of the epidemic catarrh which began to appear at Paris about a month after the autumnal equinox of 1775, and did not wholly disappear till the following spring. A similar disease, we are told, prevailed at the same time among domestic animals. The most general symptoms were an acute pain in the head and limbs, and a copious expectoration of a clear, limpid mucus. Several cases occurred in which, by neglect of regimen, exposure to cold, or some other irregularity when the disease was nearly over, the symptoms were renewed. Many gouty patients who had a regular fit, escaped the epidemic, and others who were subject to wandering gout and rheumatism, felt it only by an increase of pain. It was observed, that women subject to profuse fluor albus were less liable to it than others.

In

In some inflammatory habits the disease was attended with erysipelas. The measles, and indeed all the diseases which immediately succeeded this epidemic, seemed to partake of it. In one case of measles, in a female patient, our author saw the disease interrupted, as it were, by a flux of the menses, and when that ceased, resuming its former violence. In some cases he saw a painful hardness of the liver, brought on by the measles, and carried off by a bilious diarrhoea.

—2. *An Account of an Epidemic that prevailed at Toulouse in the Autumn of 1772.* By M. Gardeil, Professor of Physic at Toulouse. This epidemic was a remittent fever, complicated in many patients with dysentery. It began to appear in July, and continued till the end of December. During this period, 2782 persons were admitted at St. James's, which is the principal hospital in Toulouse. Of this number 306, or 1 in 3, died. The average number admitted in the same space of time in ten preceding years, was only 1034, and the average number of deaths 196, or 1 in 6.

—3. *Description of a malignant Epidemic Fever, which prevailed at Coutances and its environs in 1772 and 1773.* By M. Bonté, physician at Coutances.—4. *A Memoir relative to Sologne.*

By Abbé Tessier. This essay contains many interesting

teresting observations on the natural history, health of the inhabitants, &c. of this province.

—5. *A Memoir relative to Lorraine.* By M. Jadelot. —7. *An Account of the bad effects produced by the Miasmata of putrid Animals, and of a new Method of Treatment successfully employed in those Cases.* By M. de Laffone. In 1749 a disorder prevailed among the horned cattle, which carried off a great number of cows in the environs of Paris. Many of these were buried in the neighbourhood of the convent of *l'Enfant Jesus*, to which our author was at that time physician, and the air soon became infected. At the beginning of winter thirty ladies of the convent, and several of the servants, were attacked either with dysentery or putrid fever, or both. The progress of the infection was stopped by the Police, who gave orders to bury the carcases of the cows deep, and to cover them with lime. The new mode of treatment pursued by our author in these cases, consisted in a liberal use of bark clysters. —8. *An Essay on the Hydrophobia.* By M. Andry. In this paper, which has been published separately, the author has collected almost every thing that has been said on the subject by different writers. It is divided into three parts. In the first he treats of the
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spontaneous hydrophobia, of which he quotes numerous instances from authors, but none from his own observation; in the second he describes the contagious hydrophobia; and the third and last part relates to the method of treating it. The various remedies that have been at different times proposed for the cure of this disease, are fully described.—9. *Observations on the Leprosy of Martigues.* By M. Vidal. This place formerly was famous for the number of patients in this way (see *Med. Obs. and Inq.* Vol. I.) but at present there are but few. Our author's observations prove that this disease is hereditary, but not contagious. The common people, we are told, live in the same manner here now that they did a century ago, their food consisting chiefly of fish; but they are more cleanly in their houses and persons, and are better clothed. The population too, from 15 or 18000, is reduced to 7 or 8000.—10. *An Account of a Disease called Crinons, which attacks new-born Infants at Seyne in Provence.* By M. Baffignet. This disease, which is said to be peculiar to the town of Seyne and its neighbourhood, attacks almost all the new-born children. Authors call it *Crinons* or *Comedons*. In the place itself it is called *Cées*, a corruption of *Ceddés*, a provencal word that sig-

nifies *a bristle*. It appears in many cases within twelve hours, in others not till a month after birth, and sometimes, tho' rarely, at a more advanced age, of even twelve or more years. The symptoms are described to be a violent itching, which is increased by the heat of the bed, and prevents sleep; a continual agitation; impossibility of sucking, the child's tongue not being able to accommodate itself to the nipple; and lastly a hoarseness, and gradual extinction of the voice. Of all these symptoms the last is considered as the most certain, so that by the weakness of the child's cries, and the alteration in its voice, they judge of the degree of the disorder. As soon as it is observed they proceed to the cure, which consists in frictions by women of the country, who are so accustomed to this disease that they seldom call in either a physician or surgeon. These frictions are made on different parts of the body, according to the three states of the disease, which are sometimes distinct, at others complicated. In the first, to a diminution of voice is joined an inability to suck. This, we are told, requires frictions at the upper part of the sternum, neck, cheeks, and about the jaws and temples. If the child's tongue is at liberty, and yet he is still unable to seize the nipple, his arms or fingers

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at the same time feeling tense, this is the second state of the disease, and requires frictions on the fore arm. The third is known only by the change in the voice, and is cured by rubbing the arms, shoulders, back, and calves of the legs. The mode of friction is as follows: the woman wets her hand with saliva, and rubs the skin of one of the child's arms, for instance, along the extensor muscles, till she feels a considerable roughness. She then quits this arm and begins with the other, rubbing always in small circles, and constantly in the same direction. Nothing particular is observed in the skin previous to these frictions. Some of the most experienced women, however, speak of a sort of tension which gives way to rubbing. In many cases where this practice has been neglected, the child, we are told, has been carried off by convulsions or diarrhoea. In some subjects, a species of dark, rough hairs, not longer than the tenth of an inch, and in others, little substances resembling very fine red hair, not quite so rough as the former, and furnished with a minute bulb at their extremity, appear on the skin, and terminate the disease. This circumstance it is that gives name to the disease. Our author speaks of a girl ten years old, who, after having been for some time ill, and taking different

medicines, at length tried frictions in the manner just now described, and these brought out a prodigious quantity of dark coloured, rough hairs, after which the patient got well.—This extraordinary disease is treated of at some length by the learned M. Lorry, in his *tractatus de Morbis Cutaneis*, lately published: it is likewise mentioned by Ambrose Paré, whose account of it, as it is very concise, we shall here transcribe from Johnson's translation of his works. (*page 215.*)

“ The mention of the *Dracunculi* calls to my
 “ memory another kind of abscess, altogether
 “ as rare. This our Frenchmen name *Cridones*,
 “ I think a *Crinibus*, *i. e.* from hairs. It chiefly
 “ troubles children, and pricks their back like
 “ thorns. They toss up and down, being not
 “ able to take any rest. This disease ariseth
 “ from small hairs, which are scarce of a pin's
 “ length, but those thick and strong. It is
 “ cured with a fomentation of water more than
 “ warm, after which you must presently apply
 “ an ointment made of honey and wheaten flour;
 “ for so these hairs lying under the skin are
 “ allured and drawn forth; and being thus
 “ drawn, they must be plucked out with small
 “ mullets. I imagine this kind of disease was
 “ not known to the ancient physicians.”——

II. *Expe-*

11. *Experiments on the Manner in which Animals are affected by different aeriform mephitic Fluids, and on the means of remedying those effects.* By M. Bucquet. About two hundred animals (quadrupeds, birds, or frogs) were suffocated for the purposes of this paper, in fixed air, fumes of charcoal, or inflammable air.—12. *An Essay on the Miliary Fever, containing a Description of the Symptoms, Varieties, and Complications of that Disease.* By M. Barailon. The miliary eruption is described in this paper as being always preceded by profuse sweating, and its disappearance in certain cases is attributed by our author to “the taking the patient out of bed, or giving him an immoderate quantity of acidulated drink, by which means we check the fever, which is oftentimes too inconsiderable to be able to put the morbid matter in motion.” This erroneous theory shews that he is a friend to a heating regimen.—13. *Remarks on Corrupted Water.* By M. Mauduyt. This essay contains salutary cautions against the use of stagnant and corrupted water.

[*To be concluded in our next.*]

VIII. *An Account of the late epidemic catarrhal Fever, commonly called the Influenza, as it appeared at Bath, in the months of May and June 1782. By W. Falconer, M.D. F.R.S. 8vo. Dilly, London. 28 pages. 1s.*

THE symptoms of the late epidemic are here described with great accuracy. It appeared at Bath about the middle of May. It generally began with a slight shivering, succeeded by a sense of stuffing in the head and nose, a discharge of a clear, acrid, saline fluid from the nose, and often from the eyes, attended with frequent sneezing. As the disorder proceeded, the head became pained and frequently vertiginous. The seat of the pain was generally at the fore part of the head.

No external soreness or swelling of the glands took place; nor any internal ulceration of the fauces, in any cases that fell under our author's observations. The pulse was in general very quick, even to 140 or 150 in a minute, and when the fever ran so high, some degree of delirium generally prevailed during the night, but constantly went off towards morning. A cough generally took place from the beginning, but was seldom accompanied with pain in the side,
or

or considerable interruption of breathing. These symptoms were commonly attended with considerable debility. In some, we are told, a red eruption came on, perhaps caused by the sweating, towards the decline of the complaint, especially about the joints and palms of the hands, but this soon went off without any bad symptoms.

All ages, our author observes, were affected with it, from children in the cradle to extreme old age, and the male and female sexes equally. It seldom proved fatal, except to very old persons, who died as it were suffocated with the catarrh ; or unless some very improper methods had been pursued. They who were recovering from it were extremely liable to relapses ; in which case all the symptoms recurred much in the same manner as at first, and sometimes with additional violence.

Dr. Falconer thinks this epidemic bore a great resemblance to the *scarlatina anginosa*. The seat of both, he observes, appeared to be the same, and the symptoms likewise were very similar. The redness of the skin, which is so general an attendant on the *scarlatina anginosa*, was not indeed an usual symptom of the late influenza ; but it has nevertheless sometimes appeared,

peared, and something of this kind, he adds, is mentioned as an attendant on the complaint by other writers.

He supposes it to have been of a contagious and inflammatory nature. Mild diaphoretics were found to be the most efficacious remedies. If the symptoms were urgent, one bleeding seemed to give some relief; but, repeated often, it apparently did harm. Emetics were, in some instances, of great use when given near the accession of the disorder. Purging, when carried beyond the mere relief of costiveness, seemed to do harm. Blisters had a good effect only where the pain of the head was considerable; for they never abated either the catarrh or cough, and in several instances seemed to be hurtful by increasing the irritability of the system. The inhalation of warm steams seemed to aggravate the symptoms. Opiates were of use to lessen the cough and promote expectoration.

No preventatives were of any efficacy in preventing this disorder. The acetum prophylacticum, camphorated spirits, aromatic waters, and tobacco, were all tried, we are told, with this intent, but without any effect whatever.

IX. *Observations on the Influenza or epidemic Catarrh, as it appeared at Bristol and its environs, during the Months of May and June 1782. To which is added a meteorological Journal of the Weather.* By A. Broughton, M. D. Fellow of the Royal Medical Society of Edinburgh, and one of the Physicians to the Bristol Infirmary. 8vo. Robinson, London. 31 pages. 1s.

FROM the best information which this writer was able to obtain, the epidemic made its appearance at Bristol about the second week in May; and after raging with great rapidity during the remainder of that month, about the middle of June it began to abate, and by the end of it, or the beginning of July, it seemed to have entirely disappeared.

Some have supposed that the disease was owing to the backwardness of the spring, in consequence of which the air contained a superabundant quantity of phlogiston; but from some experiments made at Bristol by our author's friend, Mr. Becket, it appears that the air, at the time when the disease raged most, contained no more phlogiston than what is usual. Dr. Broughton thinks it not at all improbable, but

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that the large quantity of rain which fell some weeks previous to its appearance might cause such a great degree of evaporation from the surface of the earth as to produce a cold sufficient to constrict the pores on the surface of the body, and that the great consent between the exhalation from the lungs and the cutaneous perspiration may account for its particular determination to those parts. This argument is ingenious, but in the present instance we cannot adopt it. There were phenomena in the late epidemic, which we think can be explained in no other way than by supposing it to have been a contagious disease.

Dr. Broughton gives a very exact history of the symptoms of this epidemic. These symptoms were in general similar to those described in the preceding article. In some patients, we are told, the disorder was attended with pains in different parts of the body, resembling the rheumatism. In others the tonsils appeared enlarged and slightly inflamed; but in none of those, who came within our author's observation, did the irritation seem to extend itself beyond the trachea. Two patients, on the second day of the disease, complained of a difficulty in passing water, which gradually increased as the symptoms

toms advanced, and went off on the body's returning to its usual state.

Bleeding seemed to do harm, at least our author suspects that all those, treated in this manner, were much longer in recovering than those in whom the lancet was not used. Where the inflammatory symptoms, as sometimes happened, were considerable, a purgative remedy, such as the *decoct. tamar. cum sena*, generally procured some remission. Where the symptoms of fever ran very high, with great oppression and difficulty of breathing, a solution of emetic tartar, so as to produce vomiting, seemed to afford much relief, and where it excited some degree of diaphoresis the good effect was still more evident. It was not, however, in every case that either of these remedies could be administered; for some on the first attack complained of pain in the bowels attended with a diarrhœa, and such were only to be relieved by opiates.

After the belly had been gently opened by a purgative remedy, the use of mild diaphoretics seemed to afford much relief. To the use of nitre in cases attended with a cough our author has an objection on account of its stimulating property.

On the going off of the disease it often happened, that the matter secreted by the glands about the bronchiæ was so thick that it was with difficulty the patient could spit it up; in such cases, we are told, the *lac fœtidum*, or *lac ammon.* afforded relief; and if these failed blisters were applied between the shoulders.

The work closes with an extract from a meteorological journal, from the 20th of April to the 20th of June 1782, kept at Bristol by Mr. Becket.

SECTION II.

ESSAYS AND OBSERVATIONS.

- I. *An Account of a remarkable nervous Affection.*
By Mr. Charles Kite, Surgeon at Gravesend in Kent. Communicated in a Letter to Samuel Foart Simmons, M. D. F. R. S. Read Aug. 5th, 1782.

A Woman, aged 38, of a plethoric habit, was attacked in the year 1773 with an inflammation on her instep, which at first appeared like a small pimple; but in a very short time increased considerably.

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It is unnecessary to take up the attention of the society with a relation of minute circumstances. It will, I presume, be quite sufficient to observe, that the inflammation spread round the ankle and up to the knee. Ulceration took place, and the tibia was discovered to be carious through almost its whole length. It was from the beginning attended with the most excruciating torture. Every remedy was made use of, which the skill and experience of a very eminent surgeon could suggest. Bleedings occasionally repeated, emollient fomentations, and cataplasms prepared with decoction of poppies, bread, and opium, seemed to give most ease. Barbadoes tar, leeches, blisters, cupping, caustics, rasping the bone, and salivation were tried; but without the least good consequence arising, and very strong opiates served only to aggravate her miseries.

After she had endured the most violent torments for the space of eleven or twelve months, it was deemed necessary to amputate the limb above the knee. To this operation she very readily submitted, naturally concluding it would effectually remove her present agonies; but in this she was unhappily mistaken, for a few days after the leg was taken off, she was again attacked

tacked with her old disorder, in a degree equally distressing and excruciating as before, and (as she imagined) occupying exactly the same places; to wit, all the space between the ankle and the knee. It continued three or four days, and then went off. This the surgeons endeavoured to persuade themselves was no more than a common nervous sensation, and what every one after amputation experiences in a greater or less degree. A very short time, however, fully convinced them, there was something more extraordinary in this case than what is usually observed in others; for in about six weeks the same painful symptoms occurred again, and during the space of seven years generally returned once in about two months; but she has had only two severe fits within these last two years.

The pain is preceded by shivering and sickness, after which the pulse becomes rather more quick and full, and the tongue white. The stump during this period is not in the least inflamed—It may even be pressed very hard with impunity; but when the pains are very strong, it is repeatedly jerked upward with so violent a motion, that she cannot retain it in the usual position with both her hands. She is
always

always relieved by bleeding, aperients, anodynes, and camphor; but notwithstanding this plan is followed on the first appearance of the complaint, it is usually three or four days, sometimes longer, before it entirely forsakes her.

Now and then she is subject to very severe pains in the stomach and bowels; and at these times is always exempt from the pains, which she conceives to be in the leg; but she has remarked, that the pain in the extremity has frequently come on immediately after that in the stomach has disappeared, and *vice versa*.

Before the operation her menses were obstructed, but ever since they have been tolerably regular.

II. *Instances of the medicinal effects of Magnetism.*
Communicated in a letter to Dr. Simmons,
F. R. S. by Mr. Thomas Henry, F. R. S.
Apothecary at Manchester. Read Sept. 9, 1782.

IN the last number of the London Medical Journal some account is given of the medicinal effects of magnetism. Perhaps the following cases, which have fallen within my own obser-

observation, may be of some use in recommending a trial of it. That it is a powerful agent in nature, we all know, though we are little acquainted with the *modus operandi*.

A young gentleman had been for some days troubled with a very severe tooth-ach, for which he had tried all the usual remedies without success, and was on the point of submitting to the extraction of the tooth; when a friend informing him that the application of a magnet had been known to effect a cure, he immediately purchased a small artificial one, such as those sold in the shops for tobacco-stoppers, and with little expectation of success, applied it to his tooth. To his great surprize, in a few minutes, the pain entirely ceased, nor had he any return of it afterwards.

Being myself afflicted, last winter, with severe pain in a decayed tooth, which was too rotten to be easily extracted, and having tried various remedies in vain, I recollected the above case, and, having a magnet in the house, applied it to the tooth. Instant relief succeeded, my pain left me; and though it afterwards returned several times in the course of a few days, it was constantly removed by the magnet, which I carried for that purpose in my pocket, and I have since remained quite free from it.

About six weeks since a tinnitus aurium was very troublesome to me every night. At first I only perceived it when I lay on my right side, on which was the affected ear; but it soon increased so as to disturb me on whichever side I reclined. One night, being much disturbed with it, and having nothing near that seemed likely to relieve me, except the magnet, I determined to apply it, and introducing it into my ear, and holding it there for some minutes, when I again lay down I was free from the noise, nor did it return for several nights. A slight attack which happened, in the course of that week, was instantly removed by the same means, since which time I have been perfectly relieved from my complaint.

SECTION III.

MEDICAL and PHILOSOPHICAL NEWS.

THE Royal Academy of Sciences at Paris have proposed the following subject for a prize medal of 1080 livres value; viz. "To ascertain the nature and causes of the diseases to which gilders are exposed, and the means of preventing

"venting them." The dissertations are to be written either in Latin or French, and sent to the Marquis de Condorcet, Secretary to the Academy, before the 15th of February, 1783.

The Academy having as yet received no satisfactory account of the origin, structure, course, termination, &c. of the lymphatics, originally proposed as a subject for a prize, in the year 1779, have again announced it for the third time. The prize is a gold medal of 1500 livres value. It is expected of candidates that they shall describe their experiments and apparatus with the greatest accuracy. Dissertations on this subject may be sent to the secretary any time before November 1783.

At a public meeting of the Royal Academy of Surgery at Paris on the 11th of April, 1782, their prize medal of 500 livres value was adjudged to the learned Professor Camper for his dissertation on the effects of a morbid state of the secretions in surgical diseases, and the means of obviating them. This is the third time Dr. Camper has obtained the Academy's gold medal,

M. Poncelin,

M. Poncelin, surgeon at Aubreville near Clermont, has published an account of the ravages committed lately in that neighbourhood by a mad wolf. The animal was at length killed by a shepherd, who afterwards died mad in consequence of the wounds he received. M. Poncelin found this poor man with the frontal and occipital muscles in a great measure destroyed; the right eye-brow torn down over the eye; the lower lip carried away; the jaw bare; five teeth broken; the right cheek bit in two; a wound on the sternum, which laid it bare; another two inches long in the fore arm, and reaching to the bone, and a third somewhat slighter in the right leg.

Mercurial frictions were employed for thirty days. The wounds healed, and on the 26th day he went home seemingly well. But about two days afterwards he was seized with a sense of suffocation, which was succeeded by slight head-ach, convulsions, an aversion to food of every kind, whether solid or liquid, and likewise to light and any thing that was of a white color. The patient died within forty-four hours.—
Journal de Bouillon.

Dr. Bergius, a celebrated Swedish physician, has lately presented to the Academy at Stockholm some observations on the angina pectoris, and the method of treating it. He considers the disease as a spasmodic asthma, and contends that it deserves no other denomination. He has found a watery solution of gum guaiacum very successful in cases of this sort. He triturates half an ounce of this medicine with two drachms of gum arabic, which he dissolves in nine ounces of distilled water, adding to the whole half an ounce of sugar. Of this mixture he prescribes one or two spoonfuls to be taken night and morning, and the patient is directed to drink a pint of barley water after each dose. This remedy produces daily one or two stools, and it is by the number of these evacuations that the dose is to be regulated.

One of the characteristic properties of platina, hitherto, has been its infusibility by the most intense heat. A little of it has indeed been melted by exposing it to the focus of a large burning glass, but the most violent heat which could be raised in air furnaces, or by the united action

action of several large bellows, has never been sufficient to bring it into a state of fusion. M. Lavoisier, it seems, has surmounted this difficulty. One of our correspondents at Paris, who was present lately at some experiments made by that celebrated philosopher, on a new method of augmenting fire by means of dephlogisticated air, informs us, that platina was very speedily melted by this process, and likewise that by the same means iron was made to detonate. These experiments were made in the presence of the Comte and Comtesse du Nord at a meeting of the Academy of Sciences.

A great number of interesting experiments on digestion have lately been made by the ingenious Abbé Spalanzani, Professor of Natural History at Pavia. He finds that a piece of flesh inclosed in a glass tube, and swallowed by a crow, becomes putrid in nine hours, while another piece of the same size, that is suffered to be in contact with the coats of the stomach, remains perfectly sweet for eighteen hours and upwards. From other experiments by the same professor it would seem that the solvent power of the gastric juice does not last so long as its
anti-

antiseptic. Two glasses of this juice with a piece of flesh in each were kept thirty-seven days in winter, without the least mark either of putrefaction or dissolution, whereas at the same season similar pieces of flesh immersed in water became putrid in seven days. He finds that the gastric juice preserves its antiseptic power two months, and even then does not become putrid itself. He likewise proves that this juice corrects putrid flesh, so that if an animal swallows putrid flesh it becomes sweet in the action of digestion.

His experiments agree with those of M. de Reaumur with regard to the difficulty with which birds of prey digest vegetable substances. The eagle and vulture for instance easily digest flesh, tendons, and even bones, but not corn or bread.

Mr. Kirwan, F. R. S. the learned and ingenious author of several chemical papers, is preparing a new table of elective attractions. This table will be constructed on a plan entirely different from those which have hitherto appeared, and will afford singular advantages to the chemist. It will exhibit, for example, the ab-

absolute forces with which substances combine, and whether the combination will take place with or without heat. It will also include double elective attractions, the schemes for which are at present given separately, and are besides sufficiently puzzling to learners. By means only of common addition, or subtraction, we shall be enabled, by this table, to know *a priori* what will result from a mixture of any of the chemical substances contained in it. To perfect this table a great number of experiments are now making by the author, in addition to those already made by others.

An ingenious physician in London, who has long taught midwifery with considerable reputation, intends soon to publish some observations to prove that neither the section of the symphysis pubis, or the Cæsarean operation, can ever be necessary. His ideas on this subject were suggested, it seems, by a case which occurred lately in his own practice, and at which several of the most eminent accoucheurs in London were present. In this case the diameter of the pelvis on one side, from the os pubis to the os sacrum, was sufficient to admit only a single finger; on the

other side, where its diameter was somewhat larger, it was found not to exceed an inch and three quarters. As soon as this circumstance was satisfactorily ascertained, and before the strength of the patient was at all impaired, the head of the foetus was opened, and its brain evacuated. This operation, which was conducted with great care and deliberation, was completed in about two hours. The labour was then suffered to go on, and on the fourth day, when the body of the child was in a putrid state, with its joints flexible, and the whole of it compressible into a much smaller compass than before, it was brought away without any injury to the mother, who experienced no dangerous symptoms after delivery, and was soon perfectly recovered.

A case of hydrophobia occurred lately at the General Dispensary in Aldersgate-street. The patient was a boy five years old, who was bit in the cheek two months before by a strange dog he was playing with in the street. Nothing more was heard of the dog. When the physician, under whose care the patient was admitted, first saw him, he had an aversion to any thing liquid,

Lancashire, Mr. Richard Guest, surgeon and apothecary.—23. At Durham, aged 33 years, Thomas Blackburne, M. D. F. R. S. member of the Medical Societies of London and Edinburgh. He was a son of the Rev. Francis Blackburne, the present worthy and learned Archdeacon of Cleveland; and was born at Richmond in Yorkshire, where his father is Rector. He received the rudiments of his education in that town, and went from thence to the Charter-House, on the recommendation of the late Marquis of Rockingham. After two years spent in that excellent seminary, he was admitted a scholar of St. Peter's College, Cambridge; and being of standing to take the degree of B. A. he underwent a public examination in the Senate-House with high approbation: but finding he could not in conscience subscribe the Thirty-nine Articles, he quitted the University without a degree, and turning his studies to Physic, pursued them at London and Edinburgh, at which University he took his Doctor's degree, and about five years ago settled at Durham, where his memory will be long respected on account of his professional abilities, his learning in other branches of science, his urbanity of manners in general, and his benevolence to the poor and distressed who fell within

his notice. He was the author of an ingenious inaugural dissertation "*de Medici institutis*," written in very classical Latin, and printed at Edinburgh in 1775; and of an account of four cases of Tænia successfully treated, in a letter to Dr. Simmons, and published by the latter in an appendix to the second edition of his work on the Tænia. This Journal likewise, to which he was an early contributor, is indebted to him for two interesting papers, which alone would be sufficient to make us regret the death of so valuable and promising a member of the medical profession.—24. At Kingston in Jamaica, Dr. Beaumont Topott.

July 1. Dr. Josiah Gibbons, surgeon of his majesty's ship the *Glorieux*, drowned in a storm by the oversetting of a wherry between Kingston and Port Royal in Jamaica. He was a native of Georgia in America, and studied physic at Edinburgh, where he graduated in September 1776. His thesis on that occasion was intituled, *De quibusdam puerperarum Morbis*.—24. At Merryfield near Plymouth, Mr. Henry Thompson, a surgeon of great ability and eminence, and author of several very useful and ingenious papers published in different volumes of the *Medical Observations and Inquiries*. He resigned his post
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of surgeon to the London Hospital, and retired from practice but a little time before his death. The writer of this article remembers being present at the London Hospital, in the year 1768, at the amputation of a man's arm at the joint of the shoulder, by Mr. Thompson; an operation, in which he displayed all that coolness and dexterity that characterize the true surgeon.

August 3. At Bradford in Yorkshire, Edmund Simpson, M. D. He graduated at Edinburgh in September 1779; on which occasion he was the author of a thesis *de Oculo humano*.

—13. At Naples, Alexander Monro Drummond, M. D. a physician of great learning and abilities. He was the son of an eminent bookseller at Edinburgh, and in 1760 was admitted of the Medical Society in that city. From that time till 1771, when he graduated, he officiated as physicians clerk at the Infirmary. During the whole of this period he was remarkable for his unremitting attention to his professional pursuits. In 1771 he quitted Scotland, and visited the continent of Europe, where his talents and address procured him the friendship of some of the most distinguished British travellers. He accompanied Lord Algernon Percy into Greece,

and returned from thence to Naples, where he remained till his death. As a proof of the estimation in which his professional abilities were held by his countrymen, it will be sufficient to mention, that in May 1773, when he had been near two years abroad, the magistrates of Edinburgh elected him to the medical professorship vacant by the death of Dr. Gregory; and that they did not proceed to a fresh election till June 1776, and even then not without regretting that Dr. Drummond absolutely declined accepting their offer. At Naples he was highly esteemed. There are anecdotes related of him, which prove that he was as disinterested as Jean Jaques Rousseau, and in many respects as eccentric. He was often invited to return to England, and Lord Winchelsea had once seemingly prevailed on him to accompany him to London; but when the time for departure arrived, the doctor contrived to excuse himself from being of the party. A little before we saw his death announced in the Newspapers, he was said to be employed in writing an account of his travels. He was author of an inaugural thesis, entitled, *Commentarius de febris arcendis discutiendisque*.—18. At Hathem near Loughborough in Leicestershire, aged 74 years, Mr. Bowley,

Bowley, surgeon and apothecary. — 23. At Leeds in Yorkshire, aged 58, William Hird, M. D. a quaker physician of considerable eminence as a practitioner. He graduated at Edinburgh in 1751, and on that occasion defended a thesis *de Lactis natura & usu*. He was a nephew of the late Dr. John Fothergill, who, it is said, intended to have relinquished practice in his favour. Immediately after the death of that celebrated physician Dr. Hird quitted Leeds in order to settle himself in London, where he placed himself in the house of his deceased relation in Harpur-street. Here he published “An affectionate tribute to the memory of the late Dr. John Fothergill,” which is written in a sensible and pleasing manner. He remained, however, only a very few weeks in his new situation. He foresaw, that the forming new connexions would be a work of time, and that the progress of a physician in this metropolis is slow, and but too often dependent on accidental circumstances. These considerations induced him to return to Leeds, where his professional talents were known and respected.

— 29. Mr. James Bertram, surgeon of his majesty’s ship the Royal George, and one of the
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unfortunate persons who were on board that vessel when it sunk at Portsmouth.

September. At Holloway Down near Stratford, John Harris, M. D.—2. In Bishopsgate-street, London, Mr. Armstrong, surgeon.—6. At Nottingham, after a lingering illness, Mr. James Bigsby, surgeon and apothecary.—8. Mr. Cecil, apothecary in Southwark.—12. At Malton in Yorkshire, aged 48 years, Mr. John Temple, surgeon and apothecary.—22. At Windsor, John Thackeray, M. B.

SECTION IV.

QUARTERLY CATALOGUE.

1. *P. M. Augusti Broussonet, Medicinæ Doctoris, Societat. Reg. Londinensis et Monspeliensis Socii, Ichthyologia sistens Piscium descriptiones et Icones. Large 4to. Elmsley, London, 1782. 10s. 6d.*

The subject of this work does not properly come within the plan of our Journal, but we have thought it right to announce it as being a performance of great merit in Natural History, a science in the progress of which medical
readers

readers cannot but feel themselves particularly interested.

What is now published is only the first Decade, which is to be followed by others till the work is completed. It contains descriptions and engravings of ten fishes (chiefly from the South Sea) from specimens in the possession of Sir Joseph Banks, Bart to whom the work is inscribed. Half a sheet of letter press and a separate plate are allotted to each fish. The descriptions appear to be extremely exact, and by means of the late Dr. Solander's MSS. notes the author has been enabled to mark the genuine colours of the different specimens. The engravings are very elegant, and without doubt very accurate, as they were executed under the immediate inspection of the ingenious author.

2. New thoughts on Medical Electricity ; or an attempt to discover the real uses of electricity in medicine ; including a very remarkable case. In two letters to a friend. 8vo. *Cumberledge*, London, 1782. 1s.

3. Observations on the Sulphur Water at Croft near Darlington. By *Robert Willan*, M. D. 8vo. *Johnson*, London, 1782. 1s. 6d.

This little work is a useful addition to the history of our medicinal waters. According to
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the accurate analysis here given of the Croft water, it contains sulphur, a small portion of iron, a considerable quantity of Epsom salt, a little common salt, calcareous earth, and fixed air.

4. An inquiry into the state of Medicine on the true principles of inductive Philosophy; with an appendix containing practical cases and observations. By *Robert Jones*, M. D. 8vo. *Longman*, London, 1782. 6s.

5. An account of some experiments on mercury, silver, and gold, made at Guildford in May 1782 in the laboratory of *James Price*, M. D. F. R. S. To which is prefixed an abridgment of Boyle's account of a degradation of gold. 4to. Oxford 1782. 28 pages. 1s.

These experiments relate to some very extraordinary changes in mercury and silver by means of a red and a white powder, neither of which the author has thought fit to describe. By adding only half a grain of the red powder to half an ounce of mercury in a flux of borax and charcoal, the mercury was prevented from boiling although in a red heat; and in another experiment, when actually boiling and evaporating, it was almost instantaneously fixed by the addition of the same substance. Ten grains of
pure

pure gold were found in the scoriæ. Half a grain of the white powder employed in the same manner produced fifteen grains of silver. These experiments, we are told, were performed in the presence of Lords Onslow, King, and Palmerstone; Sir R. Barker, Sir P. N. Clarke, Dr. Spence, Mr. Godschall, and other persons of credit.

In the introduction to the work we meet with the following passage: "The whole of the materials producing the extraordinary change in the metal employed, was expended in performing the processes which are now to be related; nor can the author furnish himself with a second portion, but by a process equally tedious and operose, whose effects he has recently experienced to be injurious to his health, and of which he must therefore avoid the repetition."

6. Lettre sur les experiences des frictions glaciales, pour la guerison de la peste et autres maladies putrides. *i. e.* A letter concerning experiments on the efficacy of icy frictions in the cure of the Plague and other putrid disorders. By D. Samoilowitz, M. D. Assessor of the Colleges of her Imperial Majesty of all the Russias, Surgeon-major to the Senate of Moscow, and Mem-

ber of the Commission for providing against the Plague. 8vo. Paris, 1781. 54 pages.

The plague, that made such havoc in the Russian dominions, and particularly at Moscow in 1771, we are told, gave occasion to the publication of this letter. The author addresses it to the physicians of Europe, in order to announce a work which he is about to publish, and in which he promises to give a minute account of the external use of ice in the cure of the plague. An extract from the work in question is annexed to his epistle, containing three cases in which the remedy proved efficacious. One of the patients was attacked with a pestilential bubo, another with a carbuncle on the breast, and the third with petechiæ and carbuncles.

The idea of applying ice in the plague took its rise, we are told, from the custom which has long been successfully followed in Russia, of rubbing frozen limbs with snow. In honour of the present Empress of Russia, by whose order, it seems, this remedy was first introduced as a cure for the plague, our author names it *Antipestilentialia Catharinae*. We must leave it to time and farther experience to determine the merits of this new remedy. In the
mean

mean time we may observe, that Thucydides in his account of the plague at Athens, particularly observes that neither the internal nor external use of very cold water prevented the sick from dying; and that Vinarius and Guy de Chauliac, two writers of the 14th century, who had repeated opportunities of treating the plague, observe, that the external application of cold prevented the eruption of exanthemata and buboes, and by this means always proved fatal,

7. Torberni Bergman, Chemiæ Prof. Upsl. et Equitis aurati Regii ordinis de Wasa, *Opuscula Physica et Chemica, pleraque seorsim antea edita, jam ab auctore collecta, revisa, et aucta.* Vol. II. *cum tabulis æneis.* 8vo. Upsal. 1780. p. 510.

Of the first volume of this excellent collection of philosophical and chemical essays we gave an account in our Journals for January and February 1781. This second volume contains the following dissertations: 1. *De formis chrystallorum, præsertim e spatho ortis*; 2. *De Terra Silicea*; 3. *De lapide hydrophano*; 4. *De Terra Gemmarum*; 5. *De Terra Turmalini*; 6. *De Calce auri fulminante*; 7. *De Platina*; 8. *De mineris ferri albis*; 9. *De Nicolo*; 10. *De Arsenico*; 11.

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De mineris Zinci; 12. *De præcipitatis metallicis*; 13. *De minerarum Docimasia humida*; 14. *De Tubo Ferruminatorio, ejusdemque usu in explorandis corporibus, præsertim mineralibus.*

8. Gerichtlich-Medinische beobachtugen, *i. e.* Cases relative to medical jurisprudence. By *M. Metzger*, M. D. &c. 8vo. Königsberg, 1780. 192 pages.

9. Einleitungin die pharmacie, *i. e.* An Introduction to pharmacy. By *John Frederick Gmelin*, M. D. Professor of Chemistry in the University of Gottingen, &c. 8vo. Nuremberg, 1781. 392 pages.

10. *Nicol. Rigler*, *Physici Ducatus Bielicensis in Silesiâ Austriacâ, Constitutio Epidemica annorum 1775, 1776, 1778, 1779, adjectis nonnullis selectioribus casibus practicis.* 8vo. Breslaw, 1780. p. 158.

11. *Dissertatio Inauguralis de sanguinis missione in febribus putridis.* Auctore *Wernero Ernesto Rudolphi.* 4to. Gottingæ, 1780. p. 32.

12. *Dissertatio Inauguralis de pleuritide.* Auctore *Gulielmo Broc.* 4to. Nancy, 1781.

13. *Catalogue Systematique des arbres & arbrustes etrangers, la plupart de l'Amerique*
Septen-

Septentrionale, cultivés dans le jardin Americain a la terre de Madame la Comtesse de Hohenheim, & qui passent l'hiver en plein champ, *i. e.* A systematic Catalogue of exotic trees and shrubs, the greater part of them from North America, cultivated in the American garden belonging to the Countess of Hohenheim, and which pass the winter in the open air. 16mo. Stutgard, 1780. 255 pages.

This work contains a list of 850 trees and shrubs, arranged according to the Linnæan system. The names are in Latin, French, and German.

14. Observationum obstetriciarum de partu clunibus præviis peracto decas. Auctore *Georgio Gulielmo Spangerberg*. 4to. Gottingen, 1781.

15. Description, usage et avantages de la machine pour reduire les fractures des jambes, inventée par Dom. Alb. Pieropan de Vicence, *i. e.* Description, mode of application, and advantages of the machine invented for the reduction of fractured legs, by Father Alb. Pieropan of Vicenza. By *M. Mongez jun.* Member of several Academies, and Author of the Journal de Physique. 8vo. Paris, 1782. 22 pages, with a plate.

This

This machine has been approved by the College of Health at Venice. Medals have been struck in honour of the inventor, and it is used in all the hospitals in the Venetian territories. It consists of two pieces of brass reaching, on each side of the leg, from a band and cushion which surround the thigh a little above the knee, and terminating in a shoe. The brass plates are furnished with a screw, by means of which they may be lengthened or shortened.

16. *Pharmacopeia Pauperum*, in usum Instituti clinici Hamburgensis, edita a societate medica. 8vo. Hamburg, 1781. p. 71.

This is a judicious compilation. The Institution consists of seven physicians and five surgeons, who visit the patients, and of five apothecaries who prepare the medicines gratis.

17. *Medicina Clinica*, auctore Christian Gottlieb Selle, M. D. 8vo. Berlin, 1781. p. 566.

18. *Acta Societatis Jablonovianæ* varii argumenti ab anno 1775 ad annum 1779. Tom. v. 4to. Leipzig, 1781. p. 296, with two copper plates.

The only medical papers in this collection are,

1. *De lue bovina Sententia*, auctore C. G. Barthio, M. D.
2. *Dissertatio de lue bovina*, auctore A. M. Birkholz, M. D.
3. *Dissertatio de influxu*

Ruxu lucis in vegetationem plantarum, auctore
G. M. Ludwig.

19. *Auserlesene Vollstoendige abhandlungen*
von der Colik von Poitou; *i. e.* Select Differta-
tions on the Colic of Poitou, translated into
German from the Latin of de Haen, Graafhuys,
Tronchin, and Strack. By C. F. Schweder.
8vo. Copenhagen, 1781. 378 pages.

20. *Differtatio Inauguralis de Thermis Aquis*
Granensibus earumque usu salubri vel noxio.
Auctore Johanne le Soinne. 4to. Duisbourg,
1781.

21. *Notions Elementaires de Botanique, avec*
l'explication d'une carte composee pour servir
aux cours publics de l'Academie de Dijon;
i. e. Elements of Botany, with the explanation
of a map composed for the public lectures of the
Academy of Dijon. 8vo. Dijon, 1781. 398 pages.

This work, which is very judiciously executed,
is written by M. Durande, Physician and Pro-
fessor of Botany at Dijon. The map exhibits
the different systems, and is evidently the result
of much labour.

22. *Tratado teorico-practico de Materia Medica*
interna y externa, que explica los medicamentos
naturales o simples, asi como las præparaciones
chimicas las mas usuales, sus dosis, su modo de
obrar,

obrar, los casos donde convienen, y sus formulas, con un suplemento a lo ultimo ; *i. e.* A theoretico-practical Treatise on the Materia Medica both internal and external, with an account of natural and simple remedies, and of the most usual chemical preparations, their doses, mode of operating, the cases in which they are indicated, and their formulæ, with a supplement to the latter. By Don *Juan Rancé*, M. D. 4to. Barcelona. 3 vols.

23. Differtacion sobre el Sen de Espana, prueba como especificamente no es distinto del Alexandrino ò Oriental ; y explicanse sus virtudes en la Medicina, su cultivo, &c. a que se annade la lamina de la planta ; *i. e.* A Differtation on the Sena of Spain, proving it to be not specifically different from the Alexandrian or Oriental Sena ; and explaining its medicinal virtues, the mode of cultivating it, &c. to which is annexed an engraving of the plant. By Don *Salvador Soliva*, M. D. 8vo. Madrid.

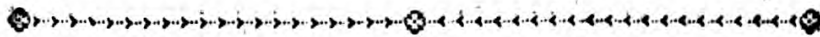


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T H E
LONDON MEDICAL JOURNAL,
For OCT. NOV. and DECEMBER,
1782.



S E C T I O N I.
B O O K S.



- I. *Histoire de la Chirurgie, depuis son origine jusqu'à nos jours ; i. e. A History of Surgery, from its origin to the present time.* By M. Peyrilhe, *Regius Professor of Chemistry in the College of Surgery at Paris, one of the Council of the Royal Academy of Surgery, Doctor of Physic in the University of Toulouse, Member of the Academy of Sciences, Inscriptions and Belles Lettres in that city, and of the Academy of Sciences at Montpellier.* Vol. II. 4to. Paris, 1780. 838 pages.

THIS is a continuation of the History of Surgery begun by the late M. Du-jardin, and of which we gave an account in our last number. The generality of continuations exhibit but a faint resemblance of the
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spirit and manner of the first projectors. He who engages to complete the undertaking of another, is generally led to it by some accidental circumstance. His talents and inclination are rarely consulted, and a work to which the writer himself sits down with indifference, perhaps with reluctance, can hardly be expected to excite much pleasure or satisfaction in the reader. But these observations are by no means applicable to the present work. M. Peyrilhe has formed his style, his arrangement and mode of reasoning so exactly on the model of his predecessor, that in reading his production we do not seem to miss the original author.

The volume begins with the fifth book, in which the author delineates the state of surgery from the reign of Augustus to that of Marcus Aurelius, a period of nearly two centuries, which includes its progress from the time of Celsus to that of Galen. Speaking of the former of these, Celsus, M. Peyrilhe takes occasion, on the authority of M. Goulin, (*Memoires Litteraires*, p. 281, année 1775) to correct a passage in Quintilian relative to that celebrated ancient. According to this correction, instead of *C. Celsus mediocri vir ingenio*, as the passage hath hitherto been

been printed, we ought to read, *C. Celsus medicus, acri vir ingenio.*

It is remarked of this period, from Celsus to Galen, that it affords not a single original book on surgery. It produced however several celebrated surgeons, and history informs us that the greater number of them composed works that were held in considerable estimation by their cotemporaries; but those works, which existed at the time of Galen, Oribasius, Ætius, Paulus Ægineta, and even still later, have long been lost, and are known to us only by the titles or fragments of them preserved in the writings of others. Notwithstanding this discouraging circumstance, our author with wonderful industry has brought together from Aretæus, Pliny, Soranus, Cælius Aurelianus, Moschion, and other writers, a great stock of materials to illustrate the surgery of that remote period.

In reviewing Aretæus's work, *de Causis et Signis acutorum et diuturnorum Morborum*, the only one of his productions that has reached posterity, M. Peyrilhe thinks he has discovered in it a description of the inversion of the uterus, and likewise of the *membrana decidua* of our celebrated anatomist Dr. Hunter. The former of these he supposes to be contained in the following passage,

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which

which he gives in a Latin translation. as he does almost all his quotations from Greek writers :
 “ Nonnunquam integra vulva de sua sede egreditur, et mulieri feminibus infidet, incredibilis calamitas. Sed neque inspectabilis est uterus
 “ . . . plerumque sanè hujus exitus mortem affert,
 “ accidit enim ex abortu, et magnis concussionibus et violento partu. At si non interficit, diu hæ vitam producunt, non visibilia videntes,
 “ extra alentes uterum atque foventes.” De Sign. et Caus. diut. lib. ii. cap. 2. The commentators on Aretæus have uniformly supposed this passage to be applicable only to the *prolapsus uteri*, but our author offers three reasons for thinking that it alludes rather to the inversion of that organ : 1st. It is spoken of as a disease that most commonly proves fatal. A prognostic which the simple *prolapsus* is but rarely observed to merit ; 2dly. The causes enumerated, such as abortion, concussions, and violent delivery, are applicable to the inverted rather than to the prolapsed uterus ; 3dly. Aretæus is silent with regard to the means of cure, which would hardly have been the case had he been speaking of a prolapsus, whereas in the inverted uterus there is little to be done except in the first moments, and these were generally lost by the ignorance
 of

of the midwives, who in those days were the only persons employed in delivery. This is the substance of M. Peyrilhe's arguments on this subject. He suspects likewise that it is to the same disease, the inversion of the uterus, that Celsus alludes in the preface to his first book, where he speaks of a new disease, or at least of one with which the principal physicians in Rome were unacquainted. His words are, "Rarius, sed aliquando morbus quoque ipse novus est, quem non incidere, manifestè falsum; cum ætate nostrâ quædam, ex naturalibus partibus, carne prolapsa et arente (some of the scholiasts read *hærente*) intra paucas horas expiraverit; sic ut nobilissimi medici neque genus mali, neque remedium invenerint. Quos ideo nihil tentasse judico, quia nemo in splendida persona periclitari conjectura sua voluerit; ne occidisse, nisi servasset, videretur."

It is in the following passage of Aretæus (*de Caus. et Sign. Morb. diuturn. cap. xi.*) that M. Peyrilhe thinks we may distinguish a description of the *membrana decidua*: "Videtur autem nonnunquam duplicitas uteri, interius succin- gens tunica quando a contigua divellitur. Geminæ namque membranæ tantum sunt differentes a tunica, hæc vero abscedit, et fluxione,

“ fluxione, et abortu, et violento partu, quando
 “ ipsa fecundis inhærescit. Nam cum ipsæ vi
 “ extrahuntur, simul et uteri tunica extrahitur :
 “ verum nisi pereat mulier, revertens eadem
 “ tunica utero ad amussim connectitur, aut
 “ paulum extra præminet : contegit autem femi-
 “ nibus mulier.” Our author is likewise of
 opinion, that Galen seems to allude to this same
 membrane, when, in speaking of the changes
 produced in the uterus by fecundation, he says,
 “ Qui vero humor matricis asperitates illinit,
 “ toti superficiei internæ subtenfus, membrana
 “ tenuis efficitur” (*de usu part.* lib. xxv. cap. 3.).
 M. Peyrilhe very candidly acknowledges, how-
 ever, that without a previous knowledge of the
 existence of this membrane, it would perhaps
 be more difficult to perceive it in Aretæus than to
 discover it in the dead body ; and he is persuaded
 that Dr. Hunter owes his knowledge of it solely
 to those singular talents for observation and dis-
 covery which he has so repeatedly and successfully
 displayed in his anatomical researches. “ But
 “ after all—adds our author—we shall perhaps
 “ never have a finer opportunity for remarking,
 “ after Galen, what an infinite number of things
 “ we overlook in the ancients for want of know-
 “ ing them beforehand.”

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The trachea being lengthened during inspiration, and becoming shorter as the air passes out of the lungs, its diameter is affected by these different motions, and of course is smallest when the tube is on the stretch. This circumstance, it seems, concerning which modern writers have been silent, did not escape the sagacity of the ancients. Our author has found Cælius Aurelianus alluding to it in his account of the treatment of vomica, where he advises the patient to lie on one side rather than on his back, as in the latter position the trachea is distended, and consequently more contracted, by which means the difficulty both of breathing and of expectorating is increased.

In analysing the writings of Moschion, to whom we are indebted for the first treatise on midwifery, our author takes occasion to quote his method of treating the furor uterinus. The whole of the prescription is curious. “ Vidua,
 “ si fuerit,—says Moschion—ipsa manum injiciat,
 “ et levius habebit : virgini autem succurrendum
 “ est sic : fac illi similitudinem virgæ naturalis
 “ de cerâ, et nitro et cardamomo secundum æta-
 “ tis ejus magnitudinem, sed hæc diligenter tere
 “ et subjice, ut molle fiat, et sit ibi quandiu pati
 “ poterit, et carebit vitio.”

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The mention of Antigonus, who is spoken of by Galen as a celebrated army physician, leads our author to inquire into the military medical establishment of the ancients, concerning which only a few scattered hints have been handed down to us by historians. He thinks it probable that among the Romans each legion had its physician (*medicus*). He observes that Vibius Rufus, physician to the fifth cohort, is known to us by an inscription, as is likewise Ti. Claudius Julianus, physician to the third; and that another inscription, found at Brixia in Lombardy, has perpetuated the memory of a third, physician to the second Italian legion. This last is as follows:

L. CALI. ARRIANI
MEDICO LEGIONIS II.
ITALIC.
QUI VIXIT ANN. XXXXVIII.
MENSES VII.
Scribonia Faustina
Conjugi Carissimo.

There is likewise, we are told, still extant a letter written by the Emperor Antoninus to an army physician, conceived in these terms: "Cum
" te medicum legionis secundæ adjutricis ope
" dicas, munera civilia, quamdiu reipublicæ
" causa,

“ causa, abfueris, fuscipere non cogeris. Cùm
 “ autem abesse defieris, post finitam eo jure vaca-
 “ tionem, si in eorum numero es, qui ad bene-
 “ ficia medicis concessa pertinent, eâ immunitate
 “ uteris.” (*Cod. de Profess. et Medicis, titul. 52.*).

M. Peyrilhe next proceeds to inquire whether these army physicians had any fixed stipend from the state, but on this head he has nothing certain to advance. If they had been paid by the public, he thinks they would hardly have required any reward from the individuals they assisted; and yet that this was practised is very evident from what is related of the Emperor Aurelian, that he enjoined the army physicians to give their assistance in future to the sick soldiers gratis. Flavius Vopiscus, who records this anecdote, has omitted to inform us whether the Emperor made at the same time any settled provision for the physicians.

As we know but little concerning the establishment of physicians in the Roman armies, so, according to our author, we are equally unable to determine whether they had any thing like our military hospitals. Tacitus relates, that after the fall of the amphitheatre of Fidenæ, in the year 28, by which fifty thousand persons were either killed or dangerously hurt, the latter

were carried to the houses of the great, and were there provided with physicians, and every thing necessary for their recovery. In a word—continues the historian—they followed on this occasion the example of the ancients, who, after great battles, were accustomed to receive the wounded into their houses, and support them by their care and bounty. The Spartans, according to Justin, (*lib. 28. cap. 4.*) made a similar arrangement for their troops, after their defeat at Sallasia; and a circumstance of the same nature is mentioned by Livy (*dec. 2. cap. 47.*). Ælius Lampridius relates of Alexander Severus, that after the manner of Cæsar, Labienus, and many other Roman Generals, this Emperor used to visit the sick soldiers in their tents, and if their disorders became dangerous, directed them to be placed in private families, where they might be taken proper care of at his expence.

From the above and other passages in the ancient historians, our author thinks it appears clearly that the Romans had no military hospitals, even under the Emperors, till the beginning of the CXIth century, and consequently that they had none during the time of the Republic. With regard to the *valetudinaria*, or infirmaries mentioned by Columella, Seneca, and Tacitus, he supposes,

supposes, with Mercurialis, that these were only apartments in the houses of persons of fortune, destined for the reception of their sick slaves. The temple of Esculapius he considers as the sole public edifice in Rome that was open to the public in cases of sickness, and this was intended only for the reception of those strangers who chanced to fall sick during those celebrated games, which drew half the inhabitants of Italy to the metropolis. As for the *ξενοδοχεῖον* (*xenodochia*, hospitals) of the ancient Greeks, which were afterwards imitated by the Emperors when the seat of empire was transferred from Rome to Constantinople, our author is of opinion that these were never intended for the sick. Their derivation was from *ξενος*, *hospes*, and like the caravanseras of the present day in the East, they were erected merely for the accommodation of travellers. The first mention of a public infirmary at Rome occurs, it seems, in one of St. Jerome's letters, where he observes that Fabiola, a Roman lady, who died about the year 400, distinguished herself by this kind of charity, and was the first who established an hospital, or *νοσοκομεῖον*, for the reception of the sick, whom she collected from the streets and succoured with her own hands. We shall transcribe the whole

of the passage, which is as follows: “ Quin
 “ potius omnem censum, quem habere poterat,
 “ (erat autem amplissimus, et respondens generi
 “ ejus) dilapidavit ac vendidit, et in pecuniam
 “ congregatum, usibus pauperum præparavit:
 “ et *prima omnium νοσοκομείον* instituit, quo ægro-
 “ tantes colligeret de plateis, et consumpta lan-
 “ goribus atque inediâ miserorum membra fo-
 “ veret. Describam ego hunc diversas hominum
 “ calamitates, truncas nares, effossos oculos, fe-
 “ miustos pedes, luridas manus, tumentes alvos,
 “ exile femur, crura turgentia, et de exesīs,
 “ ac putridis carnibus vermiculos bullientes.”

(*Epistol. lib. 3. epist. 10.*) It does not appear, however, that this institution was supported after the death of its founder; and our author is of opinion, that public infirmaries were not permanently established in Rome before the time of the Crusades, in the twelfth century. He is willing, however, to allow a greater antiquity to the hospital at Lyons, the first foundation of which is ascribed to Queen Ultrogotha, wife of Childebert I. who died in 558.

In examining the fragments of Philumenus, preserved by Ætius, M. Peyrilhe has observed, that in describing the inflammation of the uterus, he points out the symptoms that distinguish it from

from the *retraction of the uterus*, a disease which he had noticed elsewhere. This part of his writings, however, it seems is lost; but this defect our author thinks is supplied by another fragment preserved by Ætius, and ascribed to Aspasia. “ This viscus—says Aspasia, speaking of the uterus—(*Ætius, retr. iv. ser. 4. cap. 77.*)—
 “ deviating from its natural position, may incline itself in several different directions. The
 “ existence and species of misplacement may be discovered by the *touch* and the following signs,
 “ If the uterus is misplaced obliquely, its new situation will be indicated by the distension,
 “ pain, coldness, uneasiness and numbness of the thigh adjacent: sometimes also this extremity
 “ wastes, and becomes incapable of supporting or moving the rest of the body. If the uterus
 “ is thrown backwards or downwards, the difficulty, and sometimes the inability for motion,
 “ seizes both thighs. In that case the pain is violent, the belly is bound, the patient is
 “ unable to break wind, and clysters can be thrown up only when she is placed on her
 “ hands and knees. The pains increase when she sits, especially when the uterus is inclined
 “ towards the anus. If the uterus inclines forwards, towards the hypogastrium, the belly
 “ and

“ and pubis become distended and painful, and
 “ sometimes the urine is altogether suppressed.

“ In whatever direction the uterus is mis-
 “ placed, the first remedies to be applied are
 “ those which are required in inflammation;
 “ but the case in which it is inclined downwards
 “ towards the anus requires particular attention,
 “ In the first place the midwife must introduce
 “ a finger at the anus, and endeavour to push
 “ back the uterus; after which she must intro-
 “ duce a pessary into the vagina to support it.
 “ If the retraction is oblique, the reduction may
 “ be effected by the vagina, where a finger in-
 “ troduced by means of a speculum, will bring
 “ back the neck of the uterus to its proper
 “ position: in the mean time, in order to favour
 “ this effect, the patient must be directed to lie
 “ either on her back, or on the side opposite to
 “ that to which the uterus is inclined.”

Our author makes no particular remark on this passage, which he gives in a French translation, but contents himself with referring his reader to the Medical Observations and Inquiries, where they may compare it with the description given of the retroverted uterus. We have done this, but without feeling our obligations to Dr.

Hunter

Hunter on this head at all diminished by the comparison.

Returning to the fragments of Philumenus, M. Peyrilhe observes, that he seems to have been the first who in midwifery practised turning and delivering the child by the feet, a discovery which a modern writer (*Le Roy, pratique des accouchemens*) has improperly ascribed to Moschion.

In the sixth book, which fills the remainder of the volume, our author describes the state of surgery from Galen to Paulus Ægineta, that is, from the reign of Marcus Aurelius to the taking of Alexandria by the Saracens. During this long period of nearly five centuries, the art, he observes, made no very considerable progress. “ Theory founded on the philosophy of the
“ times; divisions and definitions, equally necessary for the acquisition as for the transmission
“ of knowledge; more precision and method;
“ a considerable number of operative processes
“ improved; some modes of treatment newly
“ invented; the *formulæ* of medicines, rather
“ than the medicines themselves, multiplied
“ even to profusion; these are all that the reader
“ must expect, or at least all that can be collected from the writings of this period.” Poor however—adds our author—as it is in invention,
it

It is not one of the least interesting to the historian. It was to the writers of those ages, Galen; Oribasius, Ætius, and Paulus Ægineta, that the Arabians owed the little they knew of good surgery; and at the revival of letters, the Arabian surgery served as a clue to the sources from which it had been drawn.

From several passages in Galen, our author is led to suppose that he did not, as the generality of writers have imagined, derive his knowledge of anatomy altogether from brutes. M. Peyrilhe observes, that Seneca speaks of the dissection of human bodies as a thing practised in his time; and that Galen more than once points out the difference of structure in the brute and human anatomy, a circumstance which our author considers as a proof that he was equally well acquainted with both. Among other marks of his superior knowledge in anatomy, that passage (*de symptom. causis*, lib. 1.) is quoted in which Galen tells us, that when the fifth vertebra is affected the hands become paralytic.

II. *Memoirs of the Royal Medical Society at Paris.*

(Continued from page 293.)

INQUIRIES concerning *St. Anthony's Fire.*

By Messieurs de Jussieu, Paulet, Saillant, and Abbé Tessier. This historical inquiry is intended to prove, among other things, that the *pestis inguinalis, mal-des ardens* of Guy de Chauliac and other French writers, is different from St. Anthony's fire (*feu Saint Antoine*), of which there appears to be no clear, distinct account in any of the old writers, and which seems to be of two species that have led to the distinctions of *gangræna sicca* and *humida*. The former is said to be generally the effect of smutty rye used as food. The methods of treatment are given from the best writers.—15. *Inquiries relative to an*

Epidemic Convulsion, attributed by some writers to smutty rye, and confounded with the dry gangrene.

By M. Saillant. The dry gangrene is characterized by the mortification of one or all of the extremities. The vessels become obliterated, the flesh black and hard, and the gangrene penetrates to the bones. But in the epidemic convulsion there is no gangrene. Violent Convulsions constitute the essential character of the disease. Both, however, have been attributed to the same

cause, viz. smutty rye. The first mention of the epidemic convulsion was in 1597, when it appeared in Westphalia. The medical faculty of Marbourg published a treatise on it, in which they considered it as the effect of bad diet. In 1661 it appeared in England, and is spoken of by Willis (*de Morb. Convuls. cap. 8.*) who ascribes it to the constitution of the air, and supposes its proximate cause to be an impoverishment of the nervous fluid. It has since prevailed at different periods in Saxony, Germany, Alsace, and other northern parts of Europe; and was observed in Sweden in 1746 and 1747. It was there observed that much *raphanistrum* or *bastard radish* grew among the barley in those years; and Linnæus having fed some birds with it, and finding that they died convulsed, gave the disease the name of *raphania*. Several writers have supposed that the dry gangrene and the convulsions are only different symptoms of the same disease, which have appeared together or separate according to time and other circumstances. The author of these inquiries queries whether the same cause which in cold climates produces convulsions, may not in warmer ones excite gangrene? He promises to continue his inquiries on this subject, by feeding different animals with

with *raphanistrum*, and to inform us of the result.

—16. *An account of the Remedies most necessary for Sheep.* By M. Daubenton. Sheep, the author observes, resist all the variations of the French climate except great heat, and hence they are subject to what is called *maladie de la chaleur*. In cases of this sort, the animal opens his mouth to get air, foams, bleeds at the nose, breathes short and quick, the globe of the eye becomes red, the animal hangs down his head, totters, and soon falls dead. If the body is examined after death, all the blood vessels, especially those of the head, are found distended. The remedy for this disease is bleeding. Another disease to which sheep are particularly liable, is the fly. The most favourable circumstances of pasturage, care, &c. are not sufficient, we are told, to exempt them from it. In general it requires only a topical application, and the best for this purpose is a mixture of suet and oil of turpentine. M. Daubenton recommends the bleeding sheep in the lower part of the cheek, close to the root of the fourth grinder. This spot may be ascertained by a tubercle on the external surface of the upper jaw, which may be easily felt by the finger on the surface of the skin. The angular vein passes immediately under this

tubercle. An engraving is added on this subject.

—17. *Memoir relative to the contagious disorder among the Horned Cattle in Holland.* By M. Camper. It appears from this paper, that of the animals that have had this disease in the natural way two thirds have perished, whereas by inoculating calves the loss has not exceeded two or three in a hundred. They are inoculated before they are four months old, and the symptoms are said to be very slight. Our author advises a repetition of the operation, that we may be sure the disease has taken place, because, for want of this precaution, some have had it and died after having been thought secure. He has inoculated different animals with the matter of the small-pox, but without any effect.—

16. *Remarks on the Cattle of Sologne.* By Abbé Tefrier.—

17. *Experiments on sensibility, respiration, and the anatomy of the Uterus, in the females of Quadrupeds.* — By M. Vicq D'Azyr. In the disorder that prevailed among the horned cattle in different provinces of France, it having been judged necessary to sacrifice a great number, our author took this opportunity of making a variety of experiments on sensibility in general; on the sensibility of membranes and tendons; on the irritability of the iris; on the intercostal muscles; on

on the bronchi of the foetus; on the peristaltic motion of the intestines; and on the uterus of cows.—18. *Memoir on the Regeneration of Bones.*

By M. Troja. In a work entitled *de Novorum Ossium regeneratione experimenta*, our author gave an account of a mode of producing the regeneration of long bones by destroying their marrow. As the greater number of his experiments on this subject were made upon pigeons, and only a few upon dogs, at the request of M. Duhamel he made a greater number upon quadrupeds. These experiments are related in the paper before us, and prove, that by destroying the marrow of a cylindrical bone, a new bony cylinder will be produced, either entire or partial, according as the whole or only a part of the marrow is removed, and which will correspond with that part of the marrow which is destroyed.—

19. *Reflections on the best manner of withdrawing M. Mejean's probe through the nostrils in the operation for a fistula lachrymalis.* By M. Vicq D'Azyr.

In 1712 M. Anel invented a method of curing the fistula lachrymalis, by introducing very slender probes through the puncta lachrymalia into the sac, and injecting a fluid through the latter into the nose by means of a small syringe. Since his time, M. Mejean, of Montpellier, has improved

proved this practice, by using probes which are perforated like a needle, and are long enough to extend from the upper *punctum* to the nose. By means of these, he introduces a bougie into the lachrymal duct. The difficulty in this operation lies in withdrawing the probe from the nose. With a view to obviate this inconvenience, the ingenious author of the paper before us recommends an instrument made of silver, rounded at its extremity, and having a groove extending through its whole length like a director, in which there are several holes large enough to admit the end of the probe. This instrument is to be introduced into the nose in search of the probe, which is to be moved gently upwards and downwards till its extremity gets into one of the holes, and then it is to be withdrawn.—20. *An account of a Method of improving the Preparation and Use of Emetic Tartar.* By M. de Laffone.—Our author prefers the mode of preparing this medicine recommended by Macquer in his chemical dictionary; but there is an objection, he says, to this as well as to every other, which is, that when dissolved in a very diluted aqueous vehicle, part of the medicine is constantly precipitated, and adheres to the sides of the phial. As this is owing to its not being sufficiently soluble, he recom-

recommends the mixing equal quantities of emetic tartar and pure sal ammoniac, and after rubbing them together in a mortar, adding a small quantity, three parts or less, of distilled water. By this simple method, we are told, the two salts unite, and are completely dissolved. A case of obstinate double tertian is related, in which small doses of emetic tartar were given for several weeks as an alterative with a good effect.

—21. *An Essay on Acid Soaps, and on the advantages that may be derived from them in the practice of Physic.* By M. Macquer. The name of soap is now pretty generally applied to any combination of oil with a saline substance, by which the oil is rendered soluble either in water or spirit of wine. If this definition is adopted, the number of soaps that may be made will be almost infinite. Hitherto, however, hardly any other than the alkaline soaps have been much known. It is only since the Academy of Dijon announced this as a subject for a prize, that the attention of chemists has been directed to it. M. Achard's was one of the first and most interesting publications on this matter. In uniting the acid of vitriol and oil, that writer recommends the acid to be concentrated, and the oil boiling hot, by which means the soap is black. To avoid this,

this, our author advises the oil to be cold, and the acid diluted with a sufficient quantity of water, to prevent the mixture from becoming hot. By this method he thinks we may be able to procure a soap as white as the alkaline. The observations on its medicinal uses are merely speculative.—22. *An Essay on the Waters of La Preste in Roussillon.* By M. Bonifos. These waters, which are situated two leagues from Prali de Molo, and twelve from Perpignan, are said to be similar and no way inferior to those of Bareges and Bagnères. There are three springs there of different temperatures. In one, de Reaumur's thermometer pointed to $38\frac{1}{2}$, in another to 36, and in the third to 25 degrees.—23. *Observations on the Analysis of Opium.* By M. Bucquet. This writer's experiments confirm the accounts of Neuman, Cartheuser, and Baumé with regard to the principles of opium. His method of procuring the extract is very simple. After grossly powdering the opium in a marble mortar, he pours cold water on it very gradually, and by gentle trituration promotes a solution. When the water is well tinged, he decants it and adds fresh, repeating this operation till the water comes away colourless, which it does when the opium has lost about half of its weight. The

The liquor is then to be evaporated to the consistence of an extract. The substance that remains in the mortar is a soft resinous matter, which preserves the pungent smell of opium, and may be almost wholly dissolved by spirit of wine.

—24. *Analysis of the Mineral Waters of Fontenelles, Broissardiére, Reaumur, Boisse, and Ramée, all in Lower Poitou.* By M. Gallot.—25. *Observations on Smutty Rye,* by Abbé Tessier. This is the *clavus secalinus*, *secalis mater* of Thalius, Ray, and others. These smutty grains abound more in some years than others. They have been observed in other plants as well as rye. Sologne is the part of France in which they are most prevalent. There are two reasons assigned for this by our author; one is, that rye is more cultivated in that than in any other province, and the other, that the soil, which is in general wet, seems particularly calculated to produce them.—26. *An account of a particular order of Mushrooms, which may be called bulbous.* By M. Paulet. All the mushrooms of this genus, according to our author, are of an unwholesome nature. Sometimes, he observes, their effects are confined to the *primæ viæ*, and they excite only colic and diarrhoea; but in general they produce more alarming and dangerous symp-

toms, which are preceded by languor and anxiety. He divides them into two species of *fungi speciosi* and *fungi muscarii*. A minute description, with engravings, is given of each species.—27. *Two Memoirs on Medical Electricity*. By M. Mauduyt.

—The volume closes with a *Dissertation on the circumstances in Exanthematous Fevers, in which a cool regimen is preferable to a hot one*. This judicious performance obtained the premium offered by the Society in 1776, and is written by M. Jaubert, physician at Aix. The author very properly considers the miliary eruption as an accidental symptom, the offspring of a hot regimen. He criticises a modern French writer, who asserts that a patient may have the small-pox without any eruption. Without this criterion, he asks, how can we say that the patient had the variolous fever? He observes that the virus of the small-pox attacks the *tela cellulosa*, while that of the measles particularly affects the membranes. The former, he adds, excites phlegmonic and the latter a sort of erysipelatous inflammation, which proves that each of these diseases has its peculiar modification dependent on its virus. Acidulated drink, he remarks, is less proper in measles than in the small-pox; and cold air, which is so necessary in the latter, may be dangerous

gerous in the former disease. The secondary fever of the measles is inflammatory, while that of the small-pox is of a putrid nature. The whole of the dissertation is worthy of attention.

III. Georgii Prochaska, M. D. Anatom. et de Morb. Oculor. Professoris, &c. *Annotationum Academicarum Fasciculi I. et II.* 4to. Prague, 1780 and 1781.

THE first of these collections is divided into two sections. In the first section the author presents us with several ingenious observations relative to the decrease of the teeth in the human body.

He finds that the incisores, particularly the two middlemost, are the first that experience a diminution, because they are naturally sharper than the other two, and this diminution, we are told, gradually becomes so considerable, that in elderly people two thirds of these teeth are worn away. The inner cavity of the teeth is obliterated in proportion as this diminution takes place, being gradually filled up by the bony substance.

Our author has observed, that at the age of twenty years the canine teeth in the generality of

subjects are so much worn down, that the nucleus of their bony substance is distinguishable. The molares, we are told, resist a longer time.

These remarks lead him to ask, whether the teeth may not serve to determine the age of the human species as well as of horses? He is for the affirmative, but allows that a multitude of circumstances may render our knowledge on this head very doubtful.

He next inquires into the use of the enamel, and this he thinks is not yet satisfactorily ascertained. He rejects the opinion, that the teeth are constantly growing.

The second fasciculus contains five sections. In the first we have an account of a biliary calculus voided by stool. The patient, a woman forty years old, after having been long subject to cardialgia, which was generally relieved by vomiting, one day felt as if something was detached from the pit of her stomach. From that instant the cardialgia left her, and instead of it she complained of pain in the left hypochondrium. She continued to be subject to this pain, to jaundice, and a variety of other troublesome symptoms, for the space of about three years; at the end of which time the pain suddenly left her,

her, and soon after she voided this gallstone, and recovered her health perfectly.

Our author suspects, that the greater or less facility with which these biliary concretions dissolve by heat, depends on the quantity of fixed air they contain.

In the second section we have an account of two cases, both of which terminated fatally. The subject of one of these was a woman, about fifty years old, who laboured under all the symptoms of a schirrous uterus. After death he found the pelvis filled with schirrous tumours, which pushed the urinary bladder towards the pubis, in the same manner as the uterus does during pregnancy. The ileon was found adhering to the fundus uteri. The whole of the right Fallopian tube was schirrous; the left was in a healthy state, but the inner surface of the uterus was ulcerated. The uterus was considerably distended, and the bladder at its posterior surface schirrous.

The subject of the second case was a woman, thirty years old, who for some time had been afflicted with scrophulous tumours of the neck, obstinate eruptions in the face, head-ach, profuse fluor albus, and frequent uterine hæmorrhage.

On

On dissection the iliac lymphatic glands were found enlarged to the size of a fist.

In the third section the author speaks of a tumour in the right hypochondrium, which occurred in a woman twenty-five years of age, and was at first considered as a disease of the right ovarium. She had laboured under it about fifteen weeks when he first saw it, and its bulk was then equal to that of two fists. Recourse was had to the frequent repetition of mild purges, and externally to the use of unctuous applications, and in about three months the tumour subsided. From its mode of termination, our author supposes it to have been occasioned by a collection of fæces in the cœcum.

The fourth section contains descriptions of four monsters; and in the fifth and last the author offers some observations on the different systems of generation.

IV. Joann. Gottlieb Walter, M. D. Anatom. Profess. &c. *De Dissectione Synchondroseos Ossium Pubis in partu difficili.* 4to. Berlin, 1782. p. 32, cum figurâ.

THIS ingenious professor is the first writer on the Continent who has ventured to dispute

pute the utility and propriety of the section of the symphysis pubis, in cases of narrow pelvis. Hitherto we have read only of the ease and success with which it has been performed in different countries, but now that the novelty of the thing is in some measure subsided, and practitioners begin to consider it more coolly and candidly, we may hope to see the subject impartially discussed. If in this country we have been less sanguine than the rest of Europe in our ideas on this point, we owe our caution and moderation in a great measure to Dr. Hunter, who very early pointed out the difficulties, dangers, and disadvantages which might be objected to the operation, and put us upon our guard against them.

The author of the work before us derives the greater part of his arguments from anatomy. He observes, that the union of the ossa pubis is not (as some have asserted) effected by means of a common cartilage and an annular ligament, but that each of these two bones has its proper cartilage, and that the junction is by means of an intermediate ligament. If the section is performed, the middle of the symphysis, he tells us, must be accurately fixed on, to avoid wounding the cartilages, the cure of which might be very tedious, and attended with many inconveniencies.

He

He is persuaded, likewise, that even if the intermediate ligament only were to be divided, the cure, as in other wounds of the ligaments, would be very difficult.

He controverts the opinion, that the ligaments are moistened and relaxed by an afflux of humours towards the pelvis, in the advanced stage of pregnancy. He asserts, that he has dissected more than an hundred women, who died a little before or soon after delivery, and never yet found that change in the consistence of the cartilages and ligaments, which the advocates for the section so uniformly mention.

He is convinced that in cases of narrow pelvis, the space gained by slitting the symphysis pubis will not be sufficient to allow a large head to pass. In such instances, therefore, he gives the preference to the Cæsarean operation, which he advises to be performed at the linea alba.

In the course of his work, Dr. Walter takes occasion to describe a male pelvis, of which an engraving is given, in which the ossa pubis were two inches and a half distant from each other, and held together only by means of the transverse ligament, altho' the sacro-iliac ligaments were in a natural state.

V. *Observations sur une Maladie d'Os, connue sous le nom de Necrose.* i. e. *Observations on a Disease of the Bones, known by the name of Necrosis.* By M. David, M. D. *Regius Professor of Anatomy and Surgery, Member of the Academy of Sciences, and principal Surgeon to the Hotel Dieu at Rouen.* 8vo. Paris, 1782. 28 pages.

M. BRUN, Surgeon at Toulouse, in a piece entitled '*Memoire pour les pauvres malades de l'Hotel Dieu de Toulouse,*' it seems, has controverted the opinion that a new bony cylinder may be formed round an old bone. He asserts that no case of this sort is to be met with either in Ruysch or Scultetus; and after giving it as his opinion that what has been considered as a new bone, is nothing more than a general exostosis of the old one, accompanied with internal caries, he condemns the operation practised in such cases by M. David, as cruel, dangerous, and useless. The pamphlet before us contains M. David's reply to this censure.

He begins with appealing to the testimony of Messieurs Duhamel, Bordenave, and Troja. These gentlemen, we are told, have not only seen a variety of instances where a long bone has

been found loose and inclosed in a bony case, but have even succeeded in producing this phænomenon in a living animal at pleasure *. We may add from our own knowledge, that specimens of the disease in question are not unfrequent in anatomical collections.

M. David observes, that in several cases he has extracted considerable portions of bone, which formed complete cylinders of the humerus, cubitus, tibia, and even femur. Some of these were an inch and a half thick, and had a number of fistulous openings, several inches distant from each other.

This disease, which at first sight appears so extraordinary, is truly a disease of the periosteum, and has sometimes been brought on by a violent blow, and even merely by sleeping on damp ground. If this membrane is contused, or irritated either by external means or by an acrid humour, so as to occasion a suppuration, it will be gradually separated from the bone, and the matter by degrees making its way through the periosteum to the cellular membrane, the bone, to a certain extent, will become a dead substance. But during all this time the periosteum continu-

* See page 357.

ing to receive the ossific juices, a new bone is gradually formed, and the openings in the periosteum become so many bony fistulæ.

Sometimes, we are told, the pus, instead of making itself little vents through the periosteum, destroys this membrane in form of a rent, (*en forme de déchirure*) and then, as in the cases described by Ruysch and Scultetus, the integuments are sooner affected and distended, and when the abscess is opened, a loose bone may be felt within a new bony production. This is said to happen most frequently in the tibia, where it is covered only by integuments.

M. David tells us, he is now able to produce upwards of fifteen instances of this disease that have occurred in his own practice. The most recent and the most singular of these happened in November 1781. In this case there was a portion of the os femoris, seven inches in length, completely surrounded by a new bony cylinder, eight tenths of an inch thick, and almost as hard as the original bone. Two fistulous openings, one of them a little below the great trochanter, the other at the lower and outer part of the thigh, concurred, with the increased bulk of the thigh, to convince our author of the nature of the

disease. These signs, he adds, have never deceived him.

It is perhaps hardly possible for the art of surgery to produce any thing more striking than the operation he performed in this case. He began with removing integuments, fascia lata, and muscles, in a space of about ten inches in length, and four or five in breadth, so as to lay bare this new bony mass, and to be able with a chisel, gouge, and mallet, to make an opening in it sufficient to extract the dead bone. This operation, he assures us, was followed by no alarming symptom. All the other cases, he adds, have succeeded equally well, and he now does not even find it necessary to confine the patient to a very low regimen.

VI. *Select Cases of the Disorder commonly termed the Paralysis of the Lower Extremities.* By John Jebb, M. D. F. R. S. 8vo. Stockdale, London, 1782. 74 pages. 1s.

THESE cases, which are fifteen in number, being related with great accuracy, may be considered as a valuable supplement to the treatise lately published on the same subject by Mr.

Mr. Pott. The greater number of them, it seems, occurred in St. Bartholomew's hospital, under the immediate management of that gentleman, and the relation of them will certainly tend to confirm his theory, and explain the reasons of his practice. In his history of each case, our author has very properly confined himself solely to evident symptoms and the patient's narrative; being fully satisfied, that to describe disorders according to the forms in which they really evidence themselves to the senses, with a careful attention to the patient's feelings, is the most likely method of acquiring a knowledge of their causes and cure.

As it would be impossible to do justice to these cases in an abridged view of them, we shall content ourselves with giving the following general conclusions, which have been suggested to the ingenious author by those now published, and above twice the number of others to which he has carefully attended :

“ 1. That the caustics, which were indiscriminately applied in every stage of the disease,
 “ were the efficient means of cure in a majority
 “ of the cases, and that they generally succeeded
 “ when the case could with propriety be termed
 “ a fair one,

“ 2. That

“ 2. That in the remainder, with one or two
“ exceptions, they produced an evident effect
“ in restoring sensibility and some degree of
“ motion.

“ 3. That in the unsuccessful cases, the pa-
“ tients died exhausted by hectic fever, and the
“ genuine effects of the distemper, and did not
“ appear to be prejudiced, in the remotest degree,
“ by the application of the caustics.”

In two or three instances our author has observed the upper cervical vertebræ affected. In one of these a collection of matter was found in the vicinity of the second vertebra. The unhappy sufferer, upon every motion of his head, felt a pain descend in the course of the spinal marrow, with general numbness, and sometimes pricking pains at the extremities of his toes and fingers.

From reflecting upon cases of lumbar abscess, Dr. Jebb has been led to conclude, that, in these instances of the distempered spine, where a protuberance, evidencing a mechanical derangement of the parts, is connected with the paralysis of the lower extremities, the purulent matter, generated while the caries is advancing, is prevented from escaping downwards by the thick, ligamentous substance, that covers the bodies of the
vertebræ,

vertebræ, and that this fluid thus detained assists in the further corrosion of those parts. In other cases, he observes, it may be supposed, that the matter formed by ulceration either originated on the outside of the ligamentous covering of the spine, or else bursts from its confinement within that aponeuretic expansion, and making its way in the course of the psoæ muscles, produces that peculiar form of the disorder, to which the name of lumbar abscess is assigned. In such circumstances—he asks—would it not be reasonable to open an outlet for the collected fluid, as soon as the fluctuating tumour in the groin, and other symptoms, shall ascertain the nature of the complaint, by means of a caustic applied to the most depending part; and at the same time to form large issues on each side of the spinous processes of the first or second vertebra of the loins?

Dr. Jebb is persuaded, that if all the cases of a distempered spine, which have occurred during the last five years at St. Bartholomew's hospital, were faithfully and circumstantially reported, great advantage would be derived to medical knowledge, and the mode of treatment, recommended by Mr. Pott, be still more evidently demonstrated. In another part of his pamphlet
he

he describes the utility which would accrue to students in physic, were the physicians of our hospitals to point out to them such particular cases as seemed most likely to afford opportunities of improvement, and to draw up regular and well-digested histories of such cases as might appear most deserving of attention, and insert them, properly authenticated, with an account; where it could be procured, of the appearances on dissection, in the books of the hospital. Such histories and details—he emphatically remarks—“ would be attended with public as
 “ well as private advantage; they would be
 “ analogous to the reports and year books of our
 “ lawyers—to the recorded observations of the
 “ appearances in the heavens—and might be
 “ resorted to as authorities, and as evidences of
 “ Nature’s powers, and of Nature’s laws.”

In an appendix the author relates a case of catalepsy. The patient was a young lady, who had laboured under the disorder for nine months. It was accompanied with a variety of hysterical symptoms, and was evidently exasperated at the approach of the catamenia, which were constantly present at the regular period. When he first saw her, she was seized with the disorder as soon as his arrival was announced. “ She was em-
 “ ployed

“ ployed—says he—in netting, and was passing
 “ the needle through the mesh ; in which position
 “ she immediately became rigid, exhibiting, in
 “ a very pleasing form, a figure of death-like
 “ sleep, beyond the power of art to imitate, or
 “ the imagination to conceive. Her forehead
 “ was serene, her features perfectly composed.
 “ The paleness of her colour, her breathing at
 “ a distance being also scarce perceptible, operated
 “ in rendering the similitude to marble
 “ more exact and striking. The position of her
 “ fingers, hands, and arms, was altered with
 “ difficulty ; but preserved every form of flexure
 “ they acquired : nor were the muscles of the
 “ neck exempted from this law ; her head
 “ maintaining every situation, in which the hand
 “ could place it, as firmly as her limbs.

“ Upon gently raising the eyelids, they immediately
 “ closed, with a degree of spasm. The
 “ iris contracted upon the approach of a candle,
 “ as in a state of vigilance ; the eye-ball itself
 “ was slightly agitated with a tremulous motion,
 “ not discernible when the eye-lid had descended.

“ About half an hour after my arrival, the
 “ rigidity in her limbs and statue-like appearance
 “ being yet unaltered, she sung three plaintive
 “ songs, in a tone of voice so elegantly expressive,
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“ and with such affecting modulation, as evi-
 “ dently pointed out how much the most power-
 “ ful passion of the mind was concerned in the
 “ production of her disorder, as indeed her his-
 “ tory confirmed. In a few minutes afterwards
 “ she sighed deeply, and the spasm in her limbs
 “ was immediately relaxed. She complained
 “ that she could not open her eyes, her hands
 “ grew cold, a general tremor followed ; but in
 “ a few seconds recovering intirely her recollec-
 “ tion and powers of motion, she entered into
 “ a detail of her symptoms, and the history of
 “ her complaints. After she had dis-
 “ coursed for some time with apparent calmness,
 “ the universal spasm suddenly returned. Her
 “ features now assumed a different form, de-
 “ noting a mind strongly impressed with anxiety
 “ and apprehension. At times she uttered short
 “ and vehement exclamations, in a piercing tone
 “ of voice, expressive of the passions that agitated
 “ her mind ; her hands being strongly locked in
 “ each other, and all her muscles, those subser-
 “ vient to speech excepted, being affected with
 “ the same rigidity as before.”

She had no recollection whatever of what
 passed in the fits, which returned once or twice
 a day, sometimes more frequently. Various
 remedies

remedies were tried without much advance, but at length a plaster of opium and camphor, applied to the pit of the stomach, was found to have a good effect.

Observing the utility of this application, and reflecting upon the many tokens of debility which her stomach exhibited, our author's attention was directed to the strengthening of that organ, and notwithstanding the discouraging circumstances that had formerly attended the exhibition of the bark, determined to make another trial of its power.

He chose the following form of preparation, which Dr. Whytt had found to be particularly serviceable in hysterical complaints.

℞. Cort. Peruv. p. uncias duas,
Rad. gentian.

Cort. aurantior. āā drachmas sex, misce:
infunde in spir. vinos. gallic. ℥ij. in
balneo arenæ per dies sex et cola.

Of this tincture the patient took two drachms (which was as much as her stomach would bear) twice a day, diluted with an ounce and a half of water, with the addition of a drachm of the compound spirit of lavender. Instead of the common kinds of tea, she drank an infusion of the outward rind of lemon, and occasionally took

some drops of Hoffman's anodyne liquor, or of laudanum.

She persisted in this course with evident advantage. Her fits grew less frequent, returning faintly after a week or fortnight's interval: her spirits improved, her strength increased, and at length, without the use of any other medicine, she became entirely free from all complaint.

VII. *The Works of the late Joseph Else, F. R. S. Surgeon to St. Thomas's Hospital, and Member of the Royal Academy of Surgery at Paris, containing a treatise on the Hydrocele, and other papers on different subjects in surgery. To which is added an appendix, containing some cases of the Hydrocele, with a comparison of the different methods of treating it by caustic and seton. By George Vaux, Surgeon. 8vo. Johnson, London, 1782. 144 pages.*

BESIDES an essay on the hydrocele, which has deservedly passed through several editions, Mr. Else was the author of several ingenious and useful papers published in different volumes of the Medical Observations and Inquiries. All these pieces are brought together in

in the present collection. To enter into any particular account of them in this work would be superfluous, as they have been so long published, and are in every medical library. We shall therefore content ourselves with noticing the remarks published by the editor of the volume in his appendix to the treatise on the hydrocele.

Mr. Else's principal view was to recommend, for a radical cure of this disease, the operation by caustic, as a remedy in point of ease, expedition, safety and efficacy, far superior to every other that has been proposed, and particularly to the operation by a seton.

On the other hand, Mr. Pott, in his treatise on the hydrocele, recommends, on similar grounds, as a radical cure for the disease, the operation by a seton, which he affirms to be preferable to every other, and especially to that by means of a caustic.

The question relative to the preference which either of these methods claims over the other, can be determined only by repeated comparative trials of both, this is what the editor has done, and his decision is clearly in favour of the cure by caustic.

The operation by caustic, he observes, is less painful than that by a seton. He has seen many
cases

cases in which the operation has been performed by a seton, and in all of them the pain has been considerable, and in some extremely violent; whereas in the cases in which he has seen the caustic employed, he has never observed the patient to suffer any material pain.

With regard to the inconvenience and hazard, and the length of time taken up in the cure, so far as Mr. Vaux's observation goes, the two methods will not admit of a comparison. In the cases where he has seen the seton employed, the operation has been generally followed by a fever and high inflammation. These circumstances have rendered confinement absolutely necessary, and, by their violence, have sometimes endangered the patient's life. On the contrary, in those cases where he has seen the caustic used, as they were attended with very little pain, so they were accompanied with no fever or inflammation worth notice, and of course little confinement has been necessary.

In cases where the seton had been employed, Mr. Vaux has observed the cure to have failed altogether; or if the patient for the present appeared to be cured, the disease returned, so that in either case another operation has become necessary. On the other hand, in the cases he has been

been witness to, or has been informed of, where the operation has been originally performed exactly according to Mr. Else's directions, he has met with none in which this operation did not prove an effectual cure.

Mr. Vaux describes his treatment of a double hydrocele. This case was advantageously calculated for the purpose of deciding the question concerning the comparative merits of the two different operations; by affording an opportunity of employing in the same person, the caustic operation for the cure of the disease on one side of the scrotum, and the seton for the cure of that on the other.

A caustic was applied to one of the hydroceles, and after the inconveniences arising from this operation had abated, a seton was applied to the other. A radical cure was obtained by both methods; with this difference, that the inflammation and pain produced by the seton were extremely violent; whereas, the caustic hardly occasioned any inconvenience to the patient.

A second case of this kind, we are told, nearly agreed with the one just now related. In a third case of double hydrocele, the account of which is communicated by Mr. Ford, of the Westminster Dispensary, one, and the largest of the hydroceles,

was

was cured by caustic. To the other a seton was applied, which, after producing severe and violent inflammation, seemed to have effected a complete cure, but at the end of eight months the disorder returned again on this side, and recourse was had to the caustic. But this likewise proved ineffectual, and the complaint was at length radically cured by an incision of the tunica vaginalis, through the whole length of the tumour. The failure of the caustic operation in this instance is attributed by the editor to the adhesions of the tunica vaginalis, brought on by the seton. It is added likewise, by Mr. Ford, that on examining the state of the testicle he found a small hydatid on the epididymis, and neither the seton nor the caustic have been recommended as a certain cure for the hydrocele when occasioned by hydatids.

Mr. Vaux is of opinion, that no substantial advantage is derived from the practice of mixing opium with the caustic ; but that, on the contrary, it tends to weaken the effect of the remedy. He observes, that caustic applied on sound skin gives little uneasiness, although it never fails to excite great pain when it touches parts that are inflamed.

In cases of hydrocele where the tumour is large, and the tunic much distempered, Mr. Vaux advises a larger caustic to be applied than is generally used; and where the tumour is of uncommon magnitude, he thinks it would not be improper to apply the caustic on two parts, sufficiently remote from each other, so as to affect the whole of the sac.

Mr. Vaux concludes his observations with an account of two cases, attended with some uncommon circumstances.—In one of these, the tunica vaginalis, after the water had been drawn off by a trocar, became distended with blood. In the other, the tunic being greatly diseased, the puncture with the trocar brought on inflammation and abscess. The tunic sloughed away through the wound, and the patient got perfectly well.

VIII. *An Essay on the Nature and Cure of the Phthisis Pulmonalis.* By T. Reid, M. D.
8vo. Cadell, London, 1782. 155 pages.
3s. 6d.

THE author of this work confines his inquiries to the true phthisis pulmonalis, or consumption of the lungs, preceded by tubercles.

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He begins with an history of the symptoms and progress of the disease, which he traces through the three stages (into which he divides it) of inflammation, suppuration, and diarrhoea.— Speaking of the whiteness of the teeth, which has been mentioned by Dr. Simmons in his work on consumptions as a distinguishing characteristic of the genuine phthisis, our author observes, that, altho' he has noticed this circumstance in some cases, it has occurred very seldom; and in many patients he has attended, was entirely absent. This, however, is an acknowledgment that it does sometimes take place; and in the publication alluded to, it is spoken of, not as an invariable symptom of every species of consumption, but as a circumstance that occurs only in the greater number of cases of genuine phthisis. But allowing, with Dr. Reid, that it takes place only in the smaller number of cases, still in these it will not, on that account, be less deserving the attention of the physician. If this whiteness of the teeth happens only in one consumptive patient of a hundred, and it is proved that whenever it does occur tubercles are actually formed, it will surely throw great light on the diagnosis in these cases. In a disease like consumption, where the maxim of *principiis obsta* has

has been so uniformly inculcated, this symptom, when it presents itself, may prove of infinite importance.

Dr. Reid presents us with some interesting observations on the formation and progress of tubercles, for which he acknowledges himself indebted to the MSS. of the late Dr. Stark, whose ingenious enquiries on this and other subjects we have long wished to see published.

Tubercles, we are told, are commonly found in clusters. On cutting into them they appear of a white, smooth, cartilaginous substance. In the smallest no cavity or opening appears; in those farther advanced, on the outer surface, we discover small pin holes; in those still larger, are one or more cavities, containing a fluid like pus, which being cleared off, in the bottom are perceived several small openings or holes, thro' which the matter issues on pressing the tubercle. The smaller tubercles, when emptied of their contents, appear like a small capsula, into which entered a branch of the aspera arteria.

When the tubercles increase, they are termed *vomicæ*. These are usually of an oval form, and vary in their diameter from half an inch to two or three inches. They contain a matter that varies in colour and smell, and communicate

with branches of the aspera arteria, and sometimes with other vomicae. The branches of the pulmonary artery and vein running upon the vomicae, are found much contracted, and sometimes filled up with a fibrous substance. This explains why hæmoptoe does not more frequently happen, when so great a part of the lungs is destroyed; and also when it does take place, in what manner the mouths of the bleeding vessels are shut up again.

On the subject of hectic fever, Dr. Reid differs from those writers who have ascribed it to acrimony, and supposed it to be of a putrid nature. In the course of it, he observes, none of those appearances present themselves that are usually termed putrid, such as ptechiæ, &c. and the blood, instead of being in a dissolved state, affords a thick buffy size, and firm crassamentum. He is of opinion likewise, that the idea of acrimony from the absorption of pus is equally ill-founded, pus being of a bland and inoffensive nature; and he offers several arguments to prove, that the hectic fever attending consumption of the lungs is not the effect of an absorption of pus. If it were, he observes, a fever of the same kind would take place from the absorption of pus in other diseases; whereas, in an abscess of the liver

or psoas muscle, the fever is continued, without regular remissions and morning sweats, which he considers as the characteristics of the pulmonary hectic. If it should be alledged, that the pus in these cases is of a different quality, our author answers, that in its simple natural state, pus in all cases is nearly the same. If the hectic fever (he asks) is occasioned by the acrimony of pus absorbed from the diseased lungs, from whence does it proceed before the tubercles are suppurated, or any pus formed in the lungs?

After having endeavoured to refute the commonly-received notions concerning hectic fever, Dr. Reid proceeds to deliver his own theory on this subject. He begins with proving, from the observations of Hales, Whytt, and others, that a greater quantity of perspirable matter is discharged by the lungs, than by the whole surface of the body. When the lungs, from inflammation, or the formation of turbercles and vomicæ, are rendered in part impervious to the air in inspiration, the usual quantity of fluid, he observes, cannot be carried off by the action of respiration; and the quantity so retained will remain in the habit, till excreted by some other emunctory. This quantity of phlogiston and lymph so retained in the habit, he conceives to be

be the great and principal cause of hectic fever, which invariably abates as soon as it is discharged by the pores of the skin; and as the impediment to its exit by the lungs continues; so the fever is daily renewed, that the constitution may be relieved from its accumulated burthen. As the lungs become more and more unfit for exhaling the usual quantity of fluid, the morning sweats are proportionably increased, and the exacerbations of fever more violent, till towards the close of the disease, when the patient's strength is so exhausted, and the muscular force and action of the vessels so much weakened, as probably to be unable to produce such a degree of fever as is necessary to force the fluid through the pores of the skin, it falls upon the intestines, and produces a diarrhœa.

We now come to our author's mode of treatment. On this head we shall content ourselves with quoting the following passage, which is given towards the close of the work, as a short recapitulation of his ideas on this subject.—

“ In the early inflammatory period, before matter
 “ is spit up, bleeding is to be repeated, accord-
 “ ing to the urgency of the symptoms and the
 “ strength of the patient. Vomiting to be ex-
 “ cited every morning. Cooling, lubricating,
 “ and

“ and anodyne medicines. The body to be
 “ kept open by gentle purgatives. Thin diluting
 “ drinks to be taken plentifully. The patient
 “ to keep warm, and promote perspiration. The
 “ bed to be avoided in the day-time. The diet
 “ to consist of milk, feeds, and vegetables.

“ In the second period, when purulent matter
 “ is discharged in large quantities, the hectic
 “ fever, with remissions, and morning sweats,
 “ confirmed; and when the flesh is wasted, and
 “ the strength debilitated, the vomiting powder
 “ is to be repeated morning and evening; a
 “ draught, with elix. vitr. at bed-time; and the
 “ julep, with spir. vitr. dulc. through the day.
 “ If the cough prevents sleep, an anodyne to be
 “ given, and repeated occasionally. The body,
 “ to be kept open by gentle aperient medicines.
 “ Diet to consist of feeds, milk, vegetables,
 “ ripe fruit, broth made of young animal sub-
 “ stance, and the tenderest and smallest fish,
 “ oysters, muscles, &c. The drink, toast and
 “ water, or water with the juice of ripe fruit,
 “ and lemonade. Country air, gentle exercise,
 “ and sea voyages, when they can be complied
 “ with.

“ In the third and last stage, when the
 “ diarrhoea makes its appearance, the same
 “ method

“ method of cure is to be continued, with the
 “ addition of mild astringents; varying the re-
 “ medies according to the strength, and other
 “ circumstances of the patient.”

As a vomit in these cases, Dr. Reid prefers small doses of ipecacoanha to any other medicine of that class; and he is inclined to think that the emetic has the most permanent good effects, when it remains some time in the stomach before it operates.

He attributes the good effects of sea voyages in phthisis, solely to the sickness they occasion. He observes, that in the cases enumerated by Dr. Gilchrist, the patients were generally sea-sick; and that in some the good effects ceased, when they grew familiar to the ship's motion and were no longer sea-sick.

SECTION II.

ESSAYS AND OBSERVATIONS.

- I. *Observations on the medicinal uses of the Oleum Jecoris Aselli, or Cod Liver Oil, in the Chronic Rheumatism, and other painful disorders. By Thomas Percival, M.D. F.R.S. and S.A. Member*

Member of the Royal Society of Physicians at Paris, and of the Medical Societies of London and Edinburgh, &c. Read Oct. 7, 1782.

THE multiplicity of articles, which constitute the materia medica, has been a subject of complaint with some physicians: and, though it is an evil of no great magnitude, it certainly requires correction and reformation. For it must be acknowledged, that many of these articles are known only by their names; and that others are so seldom prescribed, as scarcely to merit the places which they retain in the official lists. The progressive accumulation, however, of inactive remedies, is not to be deemed an argument against, but an incitement to the introduction of new ones, which are more efficacious. And, I trust, it will be doing some service to the healing art, to communicate to the public, a brief account of the *oleum jecoris Aselli*, or cod liver oil; the salutary properties of which, I believe, have been little experienced beyond the vicinage of Manchester.

This medicine is dispensed so largely in the hospital here, that near a hogshead of it is annually consumed. It is given in obstinate chronic rheumatisms, sciaticas of long standing, and

in those cases of premature decrepitude, which originate from immoderate labour, repeated strains and bruises, or exposure to continual dampness and cold; by which the muscles and tendons become too rigid, and the flexibility of the joints is impaired, so as to crackle for want of a due secretion of synovia. While I was one of the physicians to this charity, I had the fullest evidence of the successful exhibition of cod liver oil, in various maladies of the class above described, which had resisted other powerful modes of treatment. And I frequently compared its operation with that of gum guaiacum, by prescribing each, at the same time, to different patients in similar circumstances. These trials almost always terminated in favour of the oil; and the patients, who took guaiacum, by conferring with their fellow-sufferers, were sometimes so sensible of making a slower progress towards recovery, as to request a change of one remedy for the other.

At first it occasions, for the most part, an increase of pain; but this effect shortly ceases, and a gradual abatement of the symptoms succeeds. The pulse, in irritable habits, is sometimes accelerated by it, and a glow of warmth has been felt through the whole body, after each dose of
the

the medicine. It is neither uniformly laxative, nor binding; but often promotes a gentle degree of perspiration. However, it proves successful, even when it produces no sensible operation, as generally happens in persons habituated to its use. In a few weeks, the appetite is impaired by it, the tongue grows foul, and an emetic is required. The dose of it varies from one table spoonful to three, and it may be administered twice, thrice, or four times daily. In many cases, it is found serviceable to rub the parts affected with the oil, during the course of its internal exhibition. But this practice is only to be followed, when no great soreness subsists. Indeed, either fever or inflammation forbids the use of it entirely.

Cod-liver oil is chiefly brought from Newfoundland. It forms a considerable article of merchandize; and comes in barrels from 400 to 520 lbs. in weight. The method of obtaining it is, by heaping together the livers of the fish, from which, by a gentle putrefaction, the oil flows very plentifully. A similar oil is procured from the livers of the fish called ling, and also from a small species of cod found on the coast of Buchan in the north of Scotland. The taste is nauseous, and leaves upon the palate a flavour,

like that of tainted fish. On this account, it is not much prescribed here, in private practice, amongst the higher orders of people: but the hospital patients make no complaints of it; and such is their confidence in its efficacy, that they often solicit, as I before observed, to take it; and generally persevere, with steadiness, in the use of it. Indeed we know, that oil, of the same kind, forms no inconsiderable part of the food of the Laplanders, and other northern nations. For habit soon reconciles to the taste the most disgusting viands. The cod liver oil may, however, be rendered much less offensive by the following mode of administering it. *R. Ol. Jecoris Aselli Unciam unam, Aq. Mentb. Pip. Simp. Semunciam, Lixiv. Sapon. gutt. XL. Misce; fiat Haustus.* By this combination a liquid soap, not very unpleasant, is produced, which may be readily decomposed by the addition of a tea-spoonful of the juice of lemons. And as the oil is probably most efficacious in its original form, it may be advisable to drink a cup of some acidulous liquor immediately after the medicine has been swallowed. This will at once cleanse the mouth and gullet, neutralise the alkaline salt, and separate the oil in the stomach. Dr. Ruffel, in his natural history of Aleppo, has observed, that “ in
“ certain

“ certain seasons, when oil is plentifully taken,
 “ the people there become disposed to fevers
 “ and infarctions of the lungs, which symptoms
 “ wear off by retrenching this indulgence.” I
 have never seen or heard of any such effects
 from the long continued use of the *oleum jecoris*
Aselli. Perhaps this diversity may partly depend
 on the different qualities of vegetable and fish
 oil; the former having a tendency to obstruct,
 the latter to promote insensible perspiration. But,
 I apprehend, it is chiefly to be ascribed to the
 influence of climate. The intense heats of
 Turkey relax the animal fibres, and oil adds to
 this relaxation. But, under a northern sky, the
 fibres are too much disposed to rigidity, and
 when this actually subsists, as a malady, the
 emollient powers of oil are so far from being in-
 jurious, that they are highly salutary.

As my chief design in announcing the virtues
 of the *oleum Aselli*, is to recommend its use in
 hospitals, dispensaries, and parish work-houses,
 I shall subjoin the following letter, written, at
 my desire, by Mr. Darbey, house-surgeon and
 apothecary to our Infirmary. The testimony
 which it bears in favour of this medicine, is the
 more forcible, as it is founded not on the expe-
 rience of one, but of all the physicians to the
 charity;

charity; whose patients he daily attends and examines. And it is but justice to him to add, that he is a man of judgment, observation, and integrity.

“ To Dr. P E R C I V A L.

“ Dear Sir,

“ IN compliance with your request, I send
“ you the following remarks on some rheumatic
“ cases:

“ For several years after I came to the In-
“ firmary, I observed that many poor patients,
“ who were received into the Infirmary for the
“ chronic rheumatism, after several weeks trial
“ of a variety of remedies, were discharged with
“ little or no relief. The volatile tincture of
“ guaiacum, in large doses, seemed to bid the
“ fairest to effect a cure; but the success did
“ not answer expectation. About ten years
“ since, an accidental circumstance discovered
“ to us a remedy, which has been used with
“ the greatest success, for the above complaint,
“ but is very little known in any county except
“ Lancashire: it is the Cod, or Ling liver oil.

“ A woman, who laboured under the most
“ excruciating rheumatism, and was an out-
“ patient of this Infirmary, being advised to rub
“ her

“ her joints with the oil, was induced to take it;
 “ at the same time, internally. A few weeks
 “ restored her to the use of her limbs, and she
 “ was cured. However, little attention was
 “ paid to this case, as it was supposed that the
 “ alteration of the weather, and the medicines
 “ she had before taken, had caused the cure.
 “ About a twelvemonth afterwards, her com-
 “ plaints returned with double violence, and the
 “ same remedy restored her to health again.

“ Encouraged by this second recovery, Dr.
 “ Kay, one of the physicians to the Infirmary,
 “ prescribed it for other patients in similar cases,
 “ and it answered his most sanguine expectations.
 “ Since then, it has been used by the other
 “ physicians with the greatest success. One
 “ disadvantage attending the use of the fish oil
 “ is, its nauseous smell and taste ; this is so bad,
 “ that, I am afraid, many delicate stomachs
 “ cannot take it : yet I have observed that the
 “ poor, after taking a few doses, readily drink
 “ it without any appearance of nausea, and that
 “ not more than one stomach in twenty rejects it.
 “ This medicine has very different effects on
 “ different constitutions : on some it operates as
 “ a purgative ; others are costive with it ; and
 “ sometimes it occasions a gentle sweat. When
 “ the

“ the latter has been the case, the cure has been
 “ more certain and expeditious; though it must
 “ be observed, that the use of it, for the first
 “ week or fortnight, seems to occasion a general
 “ increase of pain.

“ Men and women, advanced in years, whose
 “ fibres may be supposed to have acquired a
 “ degree of rigidity, find surprising effects from
 “ it. Some, who have been cripples for many
 “ years, and not able to move from their seats,
 “ have, after a few weeks use of it, been able
 “ to go with the assistance of a stick; and, by a
 “ longer continuance, have enjoyed the pleasing
 “ satisfaction of being restored to the natural
 “ use of their limbs, which, for a long time
 “ before, had been a burthen to them.

“ Two cases occurred lately, in which the oil
 “ had an extraordinary effect, even on young
 “ persons, whose ages did not exceed ten years.
 “ Guaiacum, calomel, blisters, &c. were tried
 “ on both these patients, but with so little benefit
 “ that opiates were given merely to procure tem-
 “ porary ease. Their lower limbs seemed to be
 “ a burthen to them, and they had such an ap-
 “ pearance of distortion that no hopes of relief
 “ could be well entertained. In compliance
 “ with the particular request of their parents,
 “ the

“ the cod oil was given; the one obtained a
 “ perfect cure, the other nearly so; the latter
 “ having a little distortion in his back, is pre-
 “ vented the free use of his legs. So general
 “ has been the use of the oil with us, that we
 “ dispense fifty or sixty gallons annually; and
 “ the good effects of it are so well known
 “ amongst the poorer sort, that it is particularly
 “ requested by them for almost every lameness.
 “ Except bark, opium, and mercury, I believe
 “ no one medicine in the materia medica is likely
 “ to be of greater service. Besides, there is one
 “ other circumstance which recommends this
 “ medicine, which is, that it is a cheap one:
 “ and I could wish for a more general use of it,
 “ in order to prove that the above account of
 “ its good effects is no exaggeration.

“ I am, Sir,

“ Your obliged humble servant,

“ ROBERT DARBEY.

Manchester Infirmary,

Feb. 12, 1782.

X II. *An account of the salutary effect of Blisters in a case attended with symptoms of Hydrocephalus internus. By Robert White, M. D. Physician at Bury St. Edmunds. Read Nov. 4, 1782.*

A Few weeks ago I was called to the son of Thomas Garwood, coach-maker in Bury St. Edmund's. This boy is about four years old, of a pale complexion, and weak habit, in consequence of being badly nursed. He had complained for several days of great pain and weight in his head, which, when I first visited him, he could scarcely bear to have raised from the pillow; but what gave the greatest alarm to his parents was, a total blindness, which had gradually supervened. His pulse was irregular, and sometimes remarkably slow. He was several times seized with universal thrillings and twitchings, such as generally precede convulsions; after which came on a slight degree of fever, attended with immoderate thirst. His body was rather bigger than its natural size, very tense, and had been for some time inclined to costiveness. Upon examining his eyes, I found them drawn obliquely towards the nose, and the pupils dilated to nearly the size of the cornea, without the least power to contract.

Con-

Convinced that this dreadful affliction proceeded either from worms, or from water in the head, my aim to relieve was twofold. I therefore ordered a large blister to be applied directly to his head, and the nape of the neck; and the following purge to be taken early in the morning:

℞ Pulv. thæi opt. gr. xij.

Mercur. dulc. gr. ij.

Ol. rutæ, gutt. j. M.

I saw him that morning about ten o'clock, and found him much relieved from pain, and sitting upon his mother's lap. The blister had discharged most profusely throughout the night. The purge had no other effect than making him retch once or twice about the middle of the day. In the evening he was more revived, and the pupils began visibly to contract. I ordered the purge to be repeated the next morning. That day, being the third of my attendance, he gave several proofs of returning sight, and was in tolerable spirits. The second purge gave him four loose stools, which evacuation left him extremely languid. On the fourth day he took nothing but light solid food, which he ate rather greedily. His eyesight was much recovered, being able to distinguish some moderately-sized objects. He also ventured to move about the

room, and his spirits were more regular. His belly was still præternaturally enlarged, but by no means so tight as before. I now prescribed the following powders :

℞ Stanni pulv. ℥j.
Sem. fanton. gr. vj.
Ol. rutæ, gutt. ℞. M.

One of these was taken twice or thrice a day, and the purging powder repeated once in five or six days.

On the sixth day the blister was renewed at the hind part of the head. The patient continued to mend daily ; and in the space of a fortnight from that time was in much better health than before this complaint seized him. I then ordered an infusion of bark with the *tinct. flor. martial.* to be taken twice a day. His eyes have not quite recovered their natural position ; but the pupils regularly contract, and he sees, to all appearance, as well as ever.

I had some thoughts at first of rubbing in mercurial ointment, but observing the favourable change on the morning of the second day, I was unwilling to prescribe it.

I think we may venture to declare, that this boy's disorder was occasioned by a deposit of lymph in the cavities of the brain ; and that the
cure

cure was principally, if not totally, produced by the application of the blister, which for the first four days discharged most plentifully.

I never could observe any particular increase of the secretions, except a slight flux of pale urine, in the night after the operation of the second purge.

No worms, or symptoms of them, ever appeared, although the purge, with the addition of *mercur. dulc. gr. j.* was repeated twice more at proper intervals; and the vermifuge powder was taken two or three times a day for a fortnight.

Bury St. Edmunds,
Oct. 7, 1782.

III. *A remarkable case of Paralysis of the Lower Extremities, successfully treated by an Issue.* *made near a tumor on the spine*
Communicated in a letter to Samuel Foart
Simmons, M. D. F. R. S. by Mr. Charles
Kite, Surgeon at Gravesend in Kent. Read
Dec. 2, 1782.

A Lad, in the twelfth year of his age, of a fair complexion and a slender make, was, in Sept. 1780, seized with a cold shivering, which continued about five minutes. A fever succeeded and ran pretty high the whole night, but

but towards morning abated. A contraction of his legs ensued, attended with so much debility that he was unable to walk. He complained of pains all over his body, but more particularly about his stomach and the small of his back. These symptoms induced me to treat it as a fever, arising from cold, and irregularity. An emetic and some antimonial medicines were prescribed, by which he was in some degree relieved.

The fever sometimes remitted, and at other times a complete intermission took place, but without observing any regular period. When the paroxysm came on, I was never able to discover, that it attacked with shivering or even chillness. The power of using his legs daily diminished, and about the tenth day he was utterly incapable of moving them in the least off the ground.

It occurred to me, that this paralysis might probably be the consequence of some tumour on the spine. I examined his back carefully, but at this time no swelling was perceptible. The cause, therefore, appeared to me to be hid in impenetrable darkness. I attempted the use of several medicines; but the boy positively refused to take any of them. All I did, therefore, was to
have

have the thighs and legs well rubbed with a stimulating embrocation; to apply a blister to the calf of each leg, and one to the sacrum, where the nerves to the lower extremities pass out. This plan, on which my whole dependance was placed, did not by any means answer my expectation: but on the contrary, every symptom was manifestly aggravated, with the addition of many circumstances which seemed to predict a speedy and fatal termination. I called on him at the end of a month from the time of the attack. He appeared then in a more miserable situation; had a short cough, a quick and weak pulse, a purging, very little appetite, and the *facies hippocratica* to the greatest degree I ever observed. It was with the utmost difficulty he could sit in his chair a few minutes; and when he did, the muscles of his back were so remarkably weak they could not support his body, but were bent double. It was extremely distressing to him to be moved in bed; and when any one either bent or extended his legs, it was attended with great pain, particularly in the hips.

In the course of my inquiries, I was informed a swelling had within three or four days appeared on the back. On examination, I found it to be of the size of a large duck's egg, but neither
much

much inflamed nor very painful, comprehending the third and fourth vertebræ lumborum. The spine was not disfigured; nor could I perceive the spinal processes any ways affected. Its appearance might very properly be compared to a large abscess beginning to form.

The boy now observed, he always had felt an uneasiness in that part ever since he received a blow there with a stone, which, he said, happened in the morning of the day he was taken ill; and he recollected that it was with difficulty he could walk home, (which was about a mile distant) on account of a pain and weakness in his back. This was the first time he had ever mentioned the circumstance of the blow. I was now perfectly convinced that all his symptoms proceeded from the injury done to the spinal marrow, or its membranes, by this accident; and immediately recollected the advice given us in similar cases by that eminent surgeon, Mr. Pott. But his danger seemed so great, and the probability of any thing giving him relief so little, that it was with a view to avoid the imputation of inhumanity, and to neglect nothing that seemed to promise even a probability of relief, rather than with any expectation of success, that I determined to try the effect of an issue,

As

As he lived in the country, and there was no time to lose, instead of applying a caustic, I immediately made an incision the whole length of the tumour, thro' the skin and adipose membrane down to the *fascia lumborum*. Into this wound I put two small beans. The parts did not appear much diseased; no matter or any other fluid was evacuated, and the fascia was uninjured, and of a silver hue.

The patient continued in nearly the same state as before for three or four days, about which time the wound suppurated favourably. In the short space of a week the good effect of this discharge became evident; his countenance was more enlivened, his pulse not so quick, and he could move his legs a little in bed. From this period he mended amazingly. At the end of a fortnight his appetite was good; his fever had entirely left him in the day, and he was but little disturbed by it in the evening.

In three weeks, with a trifling assistance, he was capable of walking round the room. All this time the issue discharged freely; and in proportion as it discharged, the swelling gradually diminished; so that in about one month from the time the incision was made, no remains of the tumour could be perceived.

His health every day improved considerably, and in five weeks he was so perfectly recovered, that his mother concluding there could be no further occasion for the issue, suffered it to heal.

For the first three months he walked a little limping, and before any material alteration in the weather felt a slight uneasiness in the part where he received the blow; but when I met him lately, carrying a load on his shoulders, he said he was stronger than before the accident, and that he now never experiences the least inconvenience in his back, either from working or the weather.

Various instances have occurred of palsies, somewhat similar to the present; but I have never heard, or read of one, where the disease so soon arrived at so great a height, where the cure was so quickly completed, or where the remedy was more strongly marked with success. No one, I presume, will hesitate to pronounce the cure to have been entirely effected by the issue, as no other means were pursued, and every symptom assumed a milder aspect as soon as it began to discharge.

Gravesend,
Q^d. 12, 1782.

IV. *An account of an improved Method of treating the Puerperal Fever.* By Anthony Fothergill, M. D. Member of the Royal College of Physicians, and Fellow of the Royal Society. Read December 23, 1782.

TO convey early information of improvements in the cure of dangerous diseases, is a duty we owe to our brethren of the faculty, and to society. If medical facts were circulated with as much assiduity as political occurrences, it would tend not a little to the advancement of the art, and the preservation of life. Hence the utility of Medical Journals, which at stated periods communicate, in a small compass, the most important discoveries which are carrying on in different parts of the world. I was led into this train of thinking on reading a very important article of intelligence in the French *Journal de Medecine* of last month. The puerperal fever, which has too long triumphed over all the resources of nature, and too often baffled all the efforts of art, has at length, we are told, yielded to a very simple and easy method of cure happily discovered by M. Doulcet, one of the physicians to the Hotel Dieu at Paris.

The fever, we are informed, commenced about the third day after delivery, often after the most natural labours, attended with severe pain, and tension of the abdomen; prostration of strength; the pulse quick, small, and contracted. The breasts, instead of expanding, collapsed; and the secretion of milk was suspended. The above symptoms, which characterized the disease, were observed in all the women who were attacked. Besides these, shivering generally marked the onset, accompanied with nausea, vomiting, foetid alvine dejections, &c. The *lochia* nevertheless continued to flow. A flattering remission came on upon the second day, but was soon followed by cold clammy sweats, tremulous pulse, delirium, and finally death, about the third or fourth day. On dissection, were found in the cavity of the abdomen two or three pints of a milky or whey-like fluid, of a foetid odour, and containing flakes of apparently coagulated milk, a large quantity of which firmly adhered to the surface of the intestines. The uterus was found in a natural state. The disease being epidemic, and having proved uniformly fatal, in spite of all the various means of treatment which had been hitherto used at the Hotel Dieu, M. Doulcet marking the spontaneous efforts of vomiting,

recom-

recommended the following method on the first approach of the disease, viz. fifteen grains of ipecacoanha, in two doses, at the interval of an hour and half. The emetic having operated, was determined downwards by an oily mixture, consisting of two ounces of oil of almonds, an ounce of syrup of marshmallows, and two grains of kermes mineral. The same process was repeated the next day, and pursued till the symptoms disappeared. Linseed tea, and other soft diluents, sweetened with syrup of marshmallows, for common drink. On the seventh or eighth day, a gentle cathartic of manna and purging salt. During some months that the disease raged in the Hospital, this method was crowned with success in near 200 cases, while five or six women, who refused to take the medicines, fell victims to their own obstinacy. This remarkable success being found to depend on combating the disease on its onset, the midwife who superintended the lying-in women, was charged to administer the medicine at the very instant the first symptoms appeared, whether night or day. The author it seems is since dead; but his successful method of cure being confirmed by the other physicians who attend the Hotel Dieu, and having received the approbation of the Royal Medical Society, who

who were lately ordered by Government to enquire into its merit *, we can have no room to doubt the fact, altho' the theory may perhaps be controverted. It would, however, be premature either to condemn the one, or adopt the other, till both have undergone a candid examination by other practitioners. In the interim I beg leave to remark,

1st. That the suspension of the secretion of milk, which the learned author, and others, suppose to be the cause, ought perhaps rather to be deemed the consequence of the disease; since these suspensions often happen without producing it, and the disease is often removed without the secretion being restored, as appears even from their own account. The extravasated fluid and white coagulum, which they attribute to a real *metastasis* of milk, are, I apprehend, rather to be considered as morbid exudations of serum and coagulable lymph, so often conspicuous on the inflamed surfaces of the different cavities, and which assume exactly the same appearances which they describe, where there could be no suspicion of the presence of milk.

* See the printed testimonial, attested by seven eminent Physicians, intitled, Rapport fait par ordre du Gouvernement sur la methode de M. Doulcet, &c.

2^{dly}. From

2dly. From the phenomena both before and after death, the disease seems to have consisted of a combination of the inflammatory and putrid diathesis, in which the latter was predominant, similar to what we have frequently observed in this country. That the Parisian malady was more highly malignant, and consequently run its career with greater rapidity, will not appear wonderful to any one who has ever visited that crowded receptacle of disease and contagion, the Hotel Dieu.

3dly. Having myself administered emetics of ipecacuanha at a more advanced period of the disease, as well as oily demulcents, though by no means with equal success to that of M. Doulcet; and as many other practitioners, it is presumed, have done the same, the present method cannot be deemed entirely new. The whole secret then seems to depend on the *early* exhibition of the medicine, which, by nipping the disease in the bud, prevents the subsequent abdominal congestion. Such an opportunity however but seldom occurs, as the physicians of this country are rarely called till the disease has made a considerable progress, and the viscera have sustained irreparable injury! In a matter so interesting to humanity, I cannot omit expressing an earnest wish,

wish, that in future all practitioners in midwifery, especially those who attend lying-in hospitals, will, in imitation of M. Doulcet, attentively watch the first symptoms of this very alarming disease, and also, like him, engage the nurses to do the same, that when the characteristic marks above-mentioned appear, not a moment may be lost in having recourse to his method of cure. If by a timely use thereof he was enabled to give an immediate check to the fever in such a crowded hospital, is it not sufficient encouragement for British practitioners to try its efficacy under more favourable circumstances?

By the attentive observation of impartial judges a true estimate of this method will, it is hoped, be formed, its advantages and disadvantages pointed out, and its due boundaries more clearly ascertained. Though it cannot be supposed that so attentive a practitioner as M. Doulcet seems to have been, could have mistaken the after pains for the first symptoms of the puerperal fever; yet the midwife might be thus imposed on during his absence, and induced to give the medicine prematurely. The after-pains, however, are very distinguishable; for instead of being constant, they have alternate accessions and remissions, are not attended with sudden languor

languor and febrile symptoms, and generally cease before the third day, when the puerperal fever only usually commences. Besides, we are informed that those women who took the remedy recovered, while those who refused it died with all the striking marks of the disease. But should M. Doulcet's method be presumed by some to have answered as a prophylactic, rather than as a curative, in some of the numerous cases he mentions; yet this would rather increase than diminish its merit with those who think it is best to err on the safest side, and that it is more desirable to prevent than to cure diseases. In other highly contagious fevers, an emetic of ipecacoanha given on the first signs of contagion being received into the body, has been known to put an immediate stop to the disease. Does ipecacoanha then, produce these happy effects, by exerting any specific power over the contagious principle? Or by evacuating it in common with any other emetic? Or is it not rather, by its concussion, communicating a new spring to the system by which the exhalent and absorbent vessels are excited, noxious matters expelled, and dangerous determinations to the vital organs prevented?

It must be left to future experience to determine, how far this method may be safe when the

pain and tension denote a high degree of inflammation to prevail; and whether in any case the ipecacoanha possesses a superiority over antimonial or other emetics? Lastly, whether the increased danger of fevers in the puerperal state does not depend on some other principle besides that of increased irritability of the system? And why, in the beginning of this fever, those women whose mind happens to be deeply impressed with the idea of a fatal termination of the disease, scarcely ever recover?

London,
Dec. 20, 1782.

S E C T I O N III.

MEDICAL and PHILOSOPHICAL NEWS.

AT a public meeting of the Royal Medical Society at Paris, on the 27th of August, the premium offered by the Society in 1780, for the best dissertation on Dropsy, was divided between Professor Camper and M. Baraillon, two of the candidates. The essays presented by these gentlemen are said to contain a great variety of useful and ingenious observations; but as they
both

both leave something to be wished for relative to the treatment of dropsy, the Society have proposed the subject a second time, in the following form, for a prize of 600 livres :

“ What are the species and different cases of Dropsy, in which the use of diluents or a dry regimen ought to be preferred ? ”

The dissertations on this subject are to be written in French or Latin, and sent to M. Vicq D'Azyr, secretary to the Society, before the 1st of January 1784.

The Society likewise offer a premium of 200 livres to any person who shall prove, by satisfactory experiments, whether the Scurvy is a contagious disease, or not. Dissertations on this subject will be received till May 1, 1783.

At the above meeting were read the eulogium of the late Dr. Fothergill, one of the sixty foreign associates of the Society, by M. Vicq D'Azyr ; an essay on the combination of kermes mineral with caustic fixed alkali, and its utility as a remedy, by M. Hallé ; observations by M. de Laffone and M. Cornette, on the solubility of mercurial precipitates in water, and on the combination of mercury with volatile alkali ; and lastly, remarks on the intermittents of 1780 and 81, by M. Caille.

The Academy of Sciences at Lyons have offered a premium of 600 livres, for an experimental inquiry which shall ascertain the properties of alum dissolved in wine, the means of detecting it, and of correcting its ill effects. The dissertations are to be sent to the Secretary before the 1st of April 1783.

At a public meeting held lately at the College of Pharmacy at Paris, M. Lunel read an essay on the means of procuring an emetic which shall never vary in its effects. The process for this purpose consists in dephlogisticating glass of antimony with acid of vitriol, before it is combined with cream of Tartar.

M. Bonnel de la Brageresse has communicated lately to the Royal Society at Montpellier an account of the effects of some new remedies, and, amongst others, of an extract of the *anemone pulsatilla* LINN. in cutaneous diseases, administered in doses of a grain and a half twice a day.

M. Sail-

M. Saillant has lately presented to the College of Physicians at Paris, a specimen of a new drug from Madagascar, which is said to be of considerable efficacy in diarrhoea. It is a thin bark, of a yellowish colour externally, reddish within, and to the taste slightly bitter and astringent. It is known at Madagascar by the name of *Belée*.

The death of the Archbishop of Paris lately of a dropsy, and the difference in opinion relative to his treatment that took place between M. Bouvart and M. Bacher, the two physicians who attended him, has given rise to two very long letters from the latter in the *Journal de Medecine* for Jan. and Feb. 1782, in which the conduct of M. Bouvart (who, by the bye, is the physician in the greatest vogue at Paris) seems to be arraigned with unjustifiable severity. It seems that, in the case in question, M. Bouvart recommended abstinence from liquids, while M. Bacher, who has deservedly gained great reputation in dropsies by his pills and the use of diluents, advised the patient to drink freely of diluting liquors. This latter method was accordingly tried for a few days; but as the complaint was not alleviated by this practice, it was given up

in favour of M. Bouvart's mode of treatment. The Archbishop died soon after; and M. Bacher now goes so far as to say, that if his prescriptions had been steadily adhered to, the prelate's life would probably have been saved, tho' from his own account of the appearances on dissection, (setting aside the very advanced age of the patient, who was in his 79th year) the disease seems clearly to have been in its nature incurable. Eight pints of water were found in the cavity of the abdomen; and the liver was much enlarged, and in a schirrous state, as were likewise the omentum and pancreas. The Archbishop had also a fistula in ano, and had formerly been cut for the stone,

It has long been lamented, that our two universities of Oxford and Cambridge, though so deservedly celebrated for their classical learning, and their excellence in various branches of science, have hitherto never acquired any reputation as schools of physic, so that medical students have been under the necessity of resorting to Edinburgh, or to foreign universities, for that instruction which they in vain wished to procure at home. It is with singular pleasure, therefore,

therefore, we communicate to our readers the following extract of a letter from a very respectable physician at Oxford, as it will serve to shew, that the present medical professors of that university, animated with a liberal zeal for reformation and improvement, are exerting their endeavours to render it useful as a school of physic. We have no doubt but their endeavours will be crowned with success, and that in medical reputation Oxford will very soon vie with Edinburgh, Leyden, and Vienna.

“ The right hon. George Henry earl of
 “ Litchfield, late chancellor of this university,
 “ dying in 1772, bequeathed, after the demise
 “ of his lady, the sum which should arise from
 “ the sale of his house in London, and the
 “ furniture thereof, in trust, to the then chan-
 “ cellor of Oxford, the bishop of Oxford, and
 “ the president of St. John’s College, for the
 “ establishment of a Clinical Professorship in the
 “ Radcliffe Infirmary. Her ladyship died in the
 “ year 1779; when the sale of the said house
 “ and furniture produced, clear of all expence,
 “ 4256l. which sum was vested in the *Three per*
 “ *cent. Consol.* and purchased 7079l. stock, the
 “ interest whereof amounts annually to 212l.
 “ which is the salary of the professor, who by
 “ the

“ the noble benefactor’s will is to be elected by
 “ the members of Convocation. No person is
 “ eligible who has not taken a doctor’s degree
 “ in physic at least five years before such elec-
 “ tion, and by the statutes, drawn up by the
 “ present trustees, he is required to give con-
 “ stant daily attendance, with the pupils, on cer-
 “ tain select patients in the Infirmary, and twice
 “ in each week to read a lecture on their cases,
 “ during the winter months, from the beginning
 “ of November to the latter end of March.
 “ Dr. Parsons was unanimously elected the first
 “ professor in 1781. This establishment was
 “ intended by the founder for the promotion of
 “ the study of physic in Oxford; and, that his
 “ great design may not be frustrated, the Con-
 “ vocation have abridged the time required for
 “ taking degrees in physic, one year after ad-
 “ mission to regency in arts (instead of three)
 “ being now sufficient for the degree of bachelor
 “ of physic, and three years from the degree of
 “ bachelor to that of doctor, instead of four, as
 “ formerly. The physicians resident in the
 “ place have given their assistance to the design.
 “ Dr. Parsons continues to read two courses in
 “ anatomy every year. Dr. Wall reads two
 “ courses in chemistry. A course of lectures on
 “ the

“ the practice of physick will next year be read
 “ by Dr. Vivian, and on physiology by Dr.
 “ Smith. The Rev. Mr. Shaw teaches botany,
 “ and Dr. Austin delivers mathematical lectures.
 “ The number of students in physick is already
 “ much increased, and they have formed them-
 “ selves into a MEDICAL SOCIETY, which has
 “ regular weekly meetings during the winter
 “ months, and of which Martin Wall, M. D.
 “ is president, and William Austin, M. B. vice-
 “ president.”

The celebrated Haller, in his *Opuscula Patho-
 logica*, after giving the history of a young lady of
 quality who died at the age of six-and-twenty,
 and who was found to have two uteri, each of
 an oval shape and furnished with its own pecu-
 liar vagina, observes, that a woman so formed
 might certainly be liable to one conception upon
 the back of another, and therefore that a perfect
 superfœtation could take place in such a person.
 Similar remarks are made by Dr. Purcell, in his
 ingenious account of a double uterus, published
 in the 64th volume of the *Philos. Transactions*.
 and indeed we have no doubt, that the cases of
 superfœtation recorded by different writers, if they
 did actually occur, were owing to a conforma-

tion of this sort, which has been noticed by medical writers only in a small number of instances, and in these not till after death. But a case of superfoetation having occurred lately to Dr. Lobstein, professor of anatomy and surgery at Strasbourg, in a woman who is still living in that city, and who was delivered of two children, one a month after the other, he has been able to convince himself, that this circumstance is owing to her having two uteri, each of which has a distinct vagina.—Dr. Lobstein means to favour the public with a particular account of this curious fact.

Dr. Schotte (author of an ingenious treatise lately published on the synochus atrabiliosa) has communicated to the Royal Society an account of a remarkable instance of sarcocoele, which occurred to him at Senegal. The patient was a negro about fifty years old, and the disease had been gradually advancing for the space of five-and-twenty years. It was attended with no pain, but the enormous bulk of the scrotum was of itself a sufficient inconvenience, as it obliged the patient to lie constantly in bed. At the time Dr. Schotte saw it the urine had made its way through a fistulous ulcer *in perinaeo*, and the integuments of the scrotum were hard and thickened.

ened. The scrotum itself he had not an opportunity of measuring, but he is certain that he speaks within compass when he says, that it was in length two feet and a half, and in diameter, from thigh to thigh, eighteen inches.

This is the only instance of this disease that the Doctor himself has met with; but he has been informed, that in Galam, a country distant about 900 miles E. from Senegal, as well as in some other parts of Africa, it is endemial, and supposed to be hereditary.

From the report of the SMALL POX SOCIETY at CHESTER, dated Sept. 17, 1782, it appears, that of 213 children, inoculated by the Society, only two died; and it was doubted whether the death of either of these could be properly attributed to inoculation, as there was reason to suspect, that one of the patients had previously received the natural infection; and the death of the other seemed to be occasioned by a disorder of the bowels. Of 203 private patients, who were inoculated during the last four years, not one died.

In one part of the town the inhabitants, disregarding the inspectors exhortations, purposely propagated the distemper, carrying the poison and even patients, from one house to another

without reserve. In consequence of this conduct it spread through fifteen families, and proved fatal to several. This irregularity in part proceeded from their ignorance, that some money might be obtained by observing the rules. The hope of procuring the reward has had some influence on their conduct; and at the time of dating the report, the infection was nearly extinguished, as the small pox was then only in four families.

Soon after the Society was established, the natural distemper began to spread so quickly in Handbridge, through the irregularity of the inhabitants of that part of the town, and the funds of the institution being at that time so low as to cause an apprehension, that the rewards of prevention might become too expensive, the regulations were suspended in that quarter for some months. During the suspension, 16 died of the natural small pox in this parish; and in the spring of 1780, the distemper was spread so widely by soldiers, as to occasion a general suspension of the regulations for some months; during this time the deaths by the natural distemper amounted to 58. Taking the whole period of four years, ending March 30, 1782, the small pox, at Chester, has been fatal to 139, or 35 annually.

nually. If we deduct the above-mentioned 16 and 58, who died during the interval when the regulations were not executed, the total deaths would be only 55, or 14 annually; whereas the annual average of deaths by this distemper, for six years previous to the establishment of this Society, was 63. Hence its fatality has been actually reduced to near one-half; and, if we may deduct the number who died during the two periods, when the regulations were suspended, to near one-fifth.

The inspectors were particularly instructed to observe, whether the natural small pox was received from inoculated patients. On the most careful inquiry, one private and one or two public patients appeared to have communicated the natural distemper; and in all these instances, the persons infected had unreserved intercourse with the infectious, without any wish to avoid them.

During the year 1781 only eight persons died of this distemper in Chester, of whom two were infected in Manchester, a third in Liverpool, and a child of the fourth in Coventry.

On mature consideration the Society have thought proper to abolish the rewards to the inoculated patients, which at first seemed necessary to overcome inveterate prejudices.

Extract

Extract of a Letter from Dr. Vëling, physician
at Aix la Chapelle, to Dr. Willan, physician
in London.

“ Opusculum tuum de *Lanuginosa Byffo**,
“ quod dilectus amicus meus Weidmann, dum
“ hâc transit, mihi præbuit, gaudio legi, et
“ quia non solum Aquisgrani sed etiam in pago
“ Burdscheid plurimi fontes aquam mineralem
“ calidam eruçant, statim ad illos fontes nos
“ contulimus, et ecce! inveniebamus dictam
“ plantam a te descriptam, lapides eadem ratione
“ obtegentem. Sumo libertatem te illa de re
“ certiore reddendi, et monstra mihi occasi-
“ onem ut tibi ad propriam inspectionem mittere
“ possim.”

* Dr. Willan, in examining the mineral water at Croft (see page 327) discovered, by means of a microscope, that the white, hairy, mucous matter, which adheres to the sticks, grass, &c. in the course of that and other sulphur waters, is evidently a vegetable substance, answering to the character of Byffus, though a species not described in the system of Linnæus. Dr. Willan has named it *Byffus Lanuginosa*. It is a remarkable circumstance, that this Byffus is found below the spring no further than the water retains the sensible sulphureous qualities, as if the hepatic gas was necessary to its production and nourishment.

Mr.

Mr. John Hunter has lately communicated to the Royal Society an account of the organ of hearing in fishes.

At the anniversary meeting of the Royal Society, on the 30th of November, the Copleian medal was conferred on Richard Kerivan, Esq. F. R. S. for his ingenious experiments and observations on the specific gravities and attractive powers of various saline substances. (See the 2d vol. of this Journal, page 191.)

Extract of a Letter from Dr. Hahn, Professor of Physic at Leyden, to Dr. Simmons (dated Oct. 3, 1782.)

“ The Medical Society at the Hague mean
 “ soon to publish the letters, relative to the late
 “ epidemic catarrh, which have been addressed
 “ to them by the physicians in different parts of
 “ the United Provinces. The physicians at
 “ Haerlem intend to give their observations on
 “ the same subject in a separate publication.
 “ Both these works will be in Dutch.

“ The

“ The Red Bark sells at present at Amsterdam for 50 sols (not quite five shillings sterling) a pound. Mr. Brand, one of our principal druggists, has lately supplied an English dealer with two thousand pounds weight of it at that price.”—The celebrated Professor Camper, who has introduced the use of this Bark in Friesland, and experienced its good effects in a variety of instances, observes, in a letter to Dr. Simmons, that ʒvj. of it are equal in efficacy to ʒj. of the common bark.—We had entertained hopes, that the Red bark was an established article of commerce at Amsterdam; but we learn from Dr. Camper’s letter, that the supply of it there was as accidental as in this country, and consists only of a part of the cargo of a Spanish prize purchased at Lisbon. (See page 252).

New Works about to be published.—1. A treatise on exercise as a means of preserving health, by M. Pinnel, physician at Paris. The author has been employed several years on this work. One of our friends at Paris, who has perused the MSS. and is a good judge of the subject, speaks of it as a useful performance. It is soon to go to press.—2. A description of the trees, shrubs, and

and plants of the Russian empire, which is to be published by Professor Pallas, by order and under the auspices of her Imperial Majesty. From the prospectus of this work, which has lately been sent to the Royal Society, it promises to be one of the most splendid publications that has hitherto appeared on a botanical subject. The whole is to be executed at the expence of the Empress. The plates are to be of the same size as those of Professor Jacquin's, and coloured after nature with the most scrupulous exactness. The descriptions are to be in Russian and Latin. The number of plates will amount to about six hundred. The work is to be published in numbers. Each number is to contain fifty plates. No time is yet fixed for the appearance of the first number; but when the publication is begun, it is proposed to bring out at least one number every year.—3. A sixth volume of the medical observations and inquiries is expected to be published in a few months.—4. A system of surgery is preparing for the press, in one large volume, 4to. by Mr. Fynney, of Leek in Staffordshire.—5. An account of a new operation in surgery in certain cases, viz. the sawing off the extremities of the os femoris, tibia, and fibula, and uniting them by callus, so as to form a stiff joint,

instead of amputating the leg, is expected soon from Mr. Henry Park, one of the surgeons to the Infirmary at Liverpool.—6. M. Vicq D'Azyr is about to illustrate the anatomy of the brain by some very accurate engravings. About a dozen of the plates for this work, which is to be in folio, are already finished.—7. A new edition of Dr. Simmons's work on consumptions is preparing for the press, with considerable additions. Among other things it will contain farther remarks on the whiteness of the teeth as a mark of phthisis from tubercles.

P R O M O T E D.

Lately, Dr. Devereux Mytton and Dr. John Matthews to be Candidates, and Dr. Gilbert Blane, Dr. John Whitehead, and Dr. William Lister, to be Licentiates of the Royal College of Physicians in London.

Sept. 19. Mr. Mills to be apothecary to the Infirmary at Gloucester, in the room of Mr. Trye.

Oct. 26. Mr. Houlston Harries to be surgeon to the forces in Barbadoes.

Nov. 2. Dr. Burgoyne Tomkyns to be physician to the Tower of London, in the room of Dr. Robert Petrie.—9. Mr. John Adams to be surgeon to the 13th reg. of foot.—12. Mr. Colin Anderson to be surgeon to the 15th reg. of foot.

Dec. 7. William Paine, M. D. member of the College of Physicians, London, to be physician

cian to the General Hospital in North America.
—20. William Fordyce, M.D. physician in London, to the rank of knighthood.

D I E D.

Lately, at Paris, aged 53 years, M. Toussaint Bordenave, Regius Professor of Surgery in the Academy of Surgery, and member of the Academies of Sciences at Paris, Rouen, and Florence. He was born at Paris April 10, 1728, and was the first surgeon who filled the office of Sheriff (*Echevin*) of that city. The birth of a Dauphin in 1781, while he held this post, was the occasion of his being created a knight of the order of St. Michael. His death was occasioned by a paralytic stroke, which carried him off in about eight days. He was the author of “*Remarques sur l’insensibilité de quelques parties*,” 12mo. Paris, 1757; “*Elemens de Physiologie*,” 12mo. *ibid*; “*Memoire sur les antiseptiques*,” 8vo. *ibid*. 1769; “*Memoire sur le danger des caustiques pour la cure radicale des hernies*,” 12mo. *ibid*. 1774; and of several papers in the *Memoirs of the Academies of Surgery and Sciences*. (See our 2d vol. p. 182.)—At Marseilles, aged 84, M. Aubert, M. D. formerly physician to the Galleys. During his life-time he gave a sum of money, equal to about a thousand pounds sterling, as a fund for a salary to be annexed to the place of physician to the hospital of the Holy Ghost at Marseilles. He was likewise the first and principal promoter of the hospital for In-

K k k 2

curables

curables in that city, in the establishment of which he expended five thousand pounds sterling. A bust of this benevolent physician is now executing at Paris, and when finished is to be placed in the New Hospital, to which he was so liberal a benefactor.—At Paris, George de la Faye, a celebrated member of the Academy of Surgery in that city. He was the author of several papers in the Memoirs of the Academy, and likewise of a work, entitled “Principes de Chirurgie”, 12mo. the first edition of which was printed at Paris in 1739, and the 7th and last in 1773. He was also the editor of Dionis’s Operations of Surgery, with notes; a work which has gone through several editions.—At St. Lucia, Mr. Thomas Bridge, surgeon.

May 22, 1782. At Wittemberg, aged 88 years, Daniel William Triller, M.D. Prof. Senior Prof. in the University at that place.

Sept. At Windsor, Mr. William Kimber, apothecary—5. At Cambridge, Mr. Prince, surgeon and apothecary.—29. At Gloucester, Mr. John Matthews, formerly an apothecary of that city.

Oct. 9. In Dartmouth-street, Westminster, Mr. Daniel Lewelin, apothecary.—12. At Tavistock in Devonshire, advanced in years, Dr. Lavington, author of a paper printed in the Phil. Transf. for 1765, containing the case of a young lady, who died of a scurvy brought on by the drinking of sea water.—13. In his 73d year, Edw. Wallis, M.D. an Extra Licentiate of the College of Physicians in London, and one of the physicians to the Infirmary at York,
of

of which city he was an Alderman. He served the office of Lord Mayor in 1771.—17. In Thames-street, London, Mr. Mackay, apothecary.—27. Mr. John Ward, apothecary to the County Hospital at Northampton.—31. At Coventry, Mr. Edw. Harpur, jun. apothecary.

Nov. 1. Dr. Alexander Ballantyne, physician at Salisbury.—12. At Bristol, Mr. W. M'Donald, formerly a surgeon and apothecary in Jamaica.—14. In consequence of a fall from his horse a few days before, Mr. Bathurst, apothecary in Southwark.—17. At Islington, aged 30 years, Mr. Francis Smyth, surgeon.—18. At Liverpool, aged 66, Mr. James King, surgeon and apothecary.—21. Mr. Thomas Saltonstall, apothecary in Chapel-street, Bedford-row, London.

Dec. 11. At Braintree in Essex, aged 76, Dr. Colin Hoffack, physician to his late R. H. Frederick Prince of Wales, and author of an Abridgement of Van Swieten's Commentaries, in 5 volumes, 8vo.

SECTION IV.

QUARTERLY CATALOGUE.

1. **A**N inquiry into the nature of the venereal poison, and the remedies made use of to prevent its effects, principally with respect to lotions, pomades, and injections; addressed particularly to young men. By *J. Clubbe*, surgeon at Ipswich. 8vo. *Longman*, London, 1782. 2s.

This appears to be the production of a candid and judicious writer. He is of opinion, that we ought

ought never to attempt the cure of any species of venereal affection without the internal use of mercury.

2. A letter addressed to Dr. Stevenson, of Newark, occasioned by a postscript published in the second edition of his Medical Cases, with remarks on four letters, written by Philip Thicknesse, Esq. By *Edward Harrison*, member of the Royal Medical Society at Edinburgh. 8vo. *Brown*. London, 1782. 1s.

3. A medical and philosophical Essay on the theory of the gout. 8vo. *Elmsly*, London, 1782.

4. An epistle to Dr. Falconer of Bath. By *Philip Thicknesse*. 8vo. *Dodsley*, London, 1782.

Dr. Falconer, in his ingenious essay on the Bath waters, mentioned a fact which tended to prove that these waters are slightly impregnated with lead. It seems that in 1770, in cleaning the cistern of the King's bath, a piece of the upper part of the cistern was accidentally broken off, and, on being examined by Dr. Falconer and others, appeared to afford marks of erosion on its internal surface. This fact and Dr. Falconer's conclusions from it are controverted by Mr. Thicknesse in the present pamphlet, in a style which seems to have been dictated by personal resentment.

5. Short strictures on the method of treatment recommended by Dr. Dawson, in the acute Rheumatism. By *Thomas Sanden*, M.D. 12mo. *Payne*, London, 1782. 1s.

These strictures are well deserving the attention of the medical practitioner. Dr. Sanden very properly points out the bad effects which
may

may be expected from the use of large doses of volatile tincture of guaiacum (the remedy recommended by Dr. Dawson) in cases of inflammatory diathesis. An instance is related in which it brought on symptoms of peripneumony, that terminated fatally notwithstanding the repeated use of the lancet.

6. An historical sketch of Medicine and Surgery from their origin to the present time; and of the principal authors, discoveries, improvements, and errors. By *W. Black*, M. D. 8vo. *Johnson*, London, 1782. 315 pages. 5s.

7. Elements of the theory and practice of Medicine and Surgery. By *John Aitkin*, M. D. 2 vols. 8vo. *Cadell*, London, 1782. 14s.

8. Verhandeligen van het Batavinafch genootfchap der Kanften en Wetenfchapen; *i. e.* Memoirs of the Academy of Arts and Sciences at Batavia. 8vo. Batavia. 457 pages.

This, which is the first volume published by the Academy, contains only two papers that will be interesting to the medical reader. In one of these Mr. Van de Steege relates that the small-pox is not more fatal to the Europeans in Java than in their own country; but that it makes great ravages among the negroes, owing to the mode of treatment. He has introduced inoculation with fuccefs. In the other paper Mr. Joseph Van Iperen gives an account of a white negro, of the ifland of Bali, who (as well as four others that are to be defcribed in the fecond volume by Mr. Valkenaar) is ftrong, healthy, and five feet high. Mr. Valkenaar's four have produced black children. This induces the
author

author to doubt the existence of entire families of white negroes.

9. *Differtatio Physica de Aqua.* Auctore *Christ. Fred. Parrot.* 4to. Erlangen, 1781. p. 30.

10. *Tentamen Physiologicum de motibus voluntariis.* Auctore *Claudio Francisc. Blaize.* 4to. Nancy, 1782.

11. *Der Arzt für Liebhaber der Schoenheit; i. e. The Physician for the Lovers of Beauty.* 8vo. Heidelberg, 1781.

12. *Christiani Theophili Krafzeintinii, Prof. Physices in Universitate Hafniensi, Tentamen resolvendi problema ab Academia Petropolitana propositum: qualis sit natura et character sonorum litterarum vocalium, a, e, i, o, u; an constitui queant instrumenta quæ sonos illos exprimant.* 4to. Petropol. 1780.

This essay, which obtained the prize from the Academy of Petersburg in 1780 (see our 2d vol. p. 274), contains a description of the machines invented by the author to express the sound of the human voice, and a discussion of the means Nature employs to produce in our mouths the sound of each vowel.

13. *Differtatio Inauguralis de Sterilitate humana.* Auctore *Basil. Klutschatew.* 4to. Fribourg, 1781. p. 41.

The author of this thesis, who is a native of Moscow, observes, that in Russia, there are vast tracts of country without inhabitants, and numerous marriages without issue. He inquires into the cause of this national misfortune, and attributes the sterility of the lower order of women in Russia to their abuse of spirituous liquors.

14. Lettre de la Société Royale de Londres à *M. Herbiniaux*, chirurgien accoucheur et lithotomiste à Bruxelles, au sujet de son traité sur divers accouchemens laborieux et sur les polypes de la matrice. Avec un extrait du Journal de Medecine de la meme ville de Londres, relatif à l'approbation que cet ouvrage a meritée, le tout traduit de l'Anglois par *M. Jobns*, traducteur fermenté; *i. e.* A Letter from the Royal Society of London to *M. Herbiniaux*, surgeon, &c. at Bruffels, concerning his treatise on different laborious deliveries, &c. with an extract from the London Medical Journal relative to the approbation which that work has merited. The whole translated from the English by *M. Jobns*, sworn translator. 8vo. Bruffels. 1782.

M. Herbiniaux presented a copy of his work to the Royal Society, and in return received the usual compliment of a printed letter of thanks from their secretary. It is this letter, of four lines, which is introduced with so much pomp to the world in the present publication.

If *M. Herbiniaux* will turn to any of the late volumes of the Philosophical Transf. he will find an advertisement, setting forth, that the thanks given from the chair to persons who present books or other things to the Society, are to be considered in no other light than as a matter of civility; and that when such persons "take the liberty to report, that they have met with the highest applause and approbation, it is hoped that no regard will be paid to such assertions."

In order to enhance the importance of his work *M. Herbiniaux* (certainly without any

foundation in truth) tells his readers, that "several
 " celebrated physicians, members of the Royal
 " Society, have condescended to publish, as a
 " testimony of the *general approbation of the Col-*
 " *lege of Physicians*, a long account of his work,
 " of which account he has thought it right to
 " give a *literal* translation." Then follows a
 translation (but not a *literal* one, or such as might
 be expected from a *sworn* translator) of what we
 said of his first volume. Towards the conclu-
 sion, where we gave our opinion of his per-
 formance, we find our expressions shamefully
 mutilated. We allowed (*page 170*) that he dis-
 played *considerable* knowledge of his subject; but,
 instead of *considerable*, he has thought proper to
 substitute the word *perfect*; and where we ob-
 served, that the forceps and lever are "doubt-
 " less in *some few cases useful*, but that either of
 " them will require more practice, to become
 " expert in handling them, than almost any one
 " will obtain, who does not frequently have re-
 " course to them *unnecessarily*." He makes us
 say, that "in certain cases these two instru-
 " ments are doubtless *very necessary*, but that
 " both of them require long practice to become
 " expert in handling them; an experience which
 " can be acquired only by the necessity of having
 " recourse to them *often*." The idea we meant
 to convey to our readers in the foregoing passage
 was, that the lever, like the forceps, might do
 a great deal of mischief, by being often used un-
 necessarily; and that in midwifery, instruments
 are not so often required as some practitioners
 imagine. All this is very artfully metamorphosed
 to his own advantage by M. Herbiniaux.

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E N D O F V O L. III.

